

Advani: letters in his favour 'orchestrated'

The Times is the only quality newspaper publishing on Boxing Day and demand will be enormous. Be sure to order a copy from your newsagent today

Advani: letters in his favour 'orchestrated'

Thatcher resignation honours

Members of the kitchen cabinet reap rich rewards

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher rewards faithful cooks and cleaners in her resignation honours list published today, but it is her kitchen cabinet that emerges from the heat of the 1980s with the most glittering of prizes.

Pride of place goes to Professor Brian Griffiths, who proved a discreet but highly influential head of the prime minister's policy unit from 1985 to her fall from power last month. He is made a life peer.

Bernard Ingham, Mrs Thatcher's megaphone press secretary, receives a knighthood, as does Charles Powell, the one-time Foreign Office man, who was her private secretary from 1984 and a frequent caller at Chequers with his ebullient Italian wife Carla.

Tim Bell, aged 49, the former Seatchi and Seatchi linkman with Mrs Thatcher, another intimate of the Chequers dining table and the nightcap in the poky Downing Street flat, is one more insider to be rewarded with a knighthood. Andrew Turnbull, aged 45, a career civil servant and most recently her principal private secretary, becomes a Commander of the Order of the Bath (CB).

Professor Griffiths, the son of a National Coal Board chauffeur, grew up in an industrial village outside Swansea, escaped via the traditional grammar school ladder to the London School of Economics and voted Labour until 1970 and the rise of monetarism.

Mr Ingham, aged 58, Whitehall's best known man with no name, was another grammar school boy who reached the top. From being a reporter on the *Hebden Bridge Times* in the early 1950s he rose to be "government sources". Mrs Thatcher's unattributable but unmistakable hotline to breakfast tables from Barnsley to Baghdad.

By comparison, Mr Powell's steps to the summit were short and swift. The son of an air vice-marshal, he was educated at King's School, Canterbury and won a first in modern history from New College, Oxford. His first diplomatic posting was to Helsinki. His talent for the unexpected was confirmed when he was private secretary to the Washington ambassador and learned to bypass official Foreign Office channels in linking the Nixon White House to the Heath government.

An urbane and discreet figure, Mr Powell, aged 49, nevertheless had his moments in the limelight. He "accepted" the ploy of leaking the solicitor-general's letter criticising Michael Heseltine during the Westland affair. An ambassadorship now beckons after a few more months in Downing Street and perhaps a war in the Gulf. Professor Griffiths, aged 48, will also not be short of offers after five years at the heart of government. An early exponent

of monetarism, he buttressed Mrs Thatcher's hostility to the European exchange-rate mechanism and fed her doubts about Nigel Lawson's policy of fine-tuning sterling to shadow the Mark.

Professor Griffiths, like many on the new right, believed that politics and policies could not be divorced from morality.

Mr Ingham, who has retired from the civil service, yesterday threw off his tattered cloak of anonymity and said he was delighted with his knighthood. "Obviously, I am very grateful to Mrs Thatcher for recognising my work in this way," he said.

His critics, no doubt, and there are quite a few within the Conservative party, will see it differently. They will recall the cabinet ministers who fell foul of his tongue at his unattributable lobby briefings.

Mrs Thatcher also distributed consolation prizes to the vanquished generals of her leadership campaign. Peter Morrison, her former parliamentary private secretary, is given a knighthood, as is Gerry Neale, the Conservative MP for North Cornwall. George Gardiner, chairman of the backbench 92 group of Thatcher loyalists, is similarly rewarded. Michael Neubert, another veteran of her last battle, also becomes a knight.

Mrs Thatcher's list honours the widow of Ian Gow, killed by a Provisional IRA car bomb five months ago, by making her a Dame. Jane Gow was officially given the honour "for political and public services" but at Westminster it was seen as recognition of the courage she showed at the time of her husband's death outside their home in Hankham, east Sussex.



Among the honoured: (from left) Alfred Heath, Edwina Barker, Anthony Yandle, Peter D'Emmanuele, Sherry Warner, Susan Goodchild, Dot King, Janice Richards, Andrew Turnbull, principal private secretary, and John Catford, secretary for appointments



On the honours list: Jane Gow, John Henderson, Olga Polizzi, Nick Lloyd, Tim Bell, Sir Gordon White, Sue Tinson, Bernard Ingham



Marjorie Sherman, Gerry Neale, George Gardiner, Peter Morrison, Michael Neubert, Sir Hector Laing, Sir David Wolfson, Harvey Thomas



Sir Jeffrey Sterling, Brian Griffiths, Dame Joan Seccombe, John Whittingdale, Charles Powell, Robert Kingston, Joan Hall, Peter Palmbo

Personal touch to office honours

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LIKE previous prime ministers, Margaret Thatcher has followed a long tradition by recommending honours for the office and household staff at 10 Downing Street and Chequers.

The former prime minister has also added some typically personal touches to the list by recommending awards to women closely involved in refurbishing the official rooms at 10 Downing Street and in providing her with her sartorial elegance.

Sergeant Robert Kingston, who as Mrs Thatcher's personal detective, was probably the man who appeared most often in photographs with the former prime minister, becomes an MBE. Mrs Thatcher has followed the tradition of Harold Wilson and James Callaghan by recommending an honour for her personal physician, Dr John Henderson,

who is made a CBE. A similar honour goes to Mrs Olga Polizzi, the daughter of Lord Forte and a Conservative member of Westminster city council. She is managing director of building and design for Trusthouse Forte and was in the team responsible for the redecoration of the state rooms and drawing room at No 10.

Margaret King, the woman who helped develop the distinctive Thatcher style, becomes an MBE. Mrs King's role as a fashion adviser to Mrs Thatcher and designer of most of her day and all her evening wear began in the spring of 1987 when the former prime minister went to Aquascutum, the men's and women's outfitters in London, for a warm coat to wear on her first visit to the Soviet Union.

Mrs King said yesterday: "It has been a great honour to put her outfits together. Her clothes are basically a British look, concentrating on classic style that she wanted the world to know was the British look."

On Mrs Thatcher's recommendation, a number of workers at 10 Downing Street become

MBEs as does Amanda Ponsonby, who was formerly her personal assistant and has helped her in the difficult days of transition from being prime minister to backbench MP.

Also made MBEs are Jean Dibbon, senior personal secretary in the prime minister's office, Janice Richards, head of the secretarial service at No 10 who are widely known in Whitehall, and Sherry Warner, the senior cook who catered for small lunches and breakfasts.

Dorothy Haynes, the housekeeper-curator at Chequers, becomes an MBE while a British Empire Medal goes to Sergeant Theresa Duda, the assistant house manager at the prime minister's official country home.

There was also an honour for Ted Heath, not the former prime minister, but the custody guard supervisor at 10 Downing Street. Mr Alfred Heath, known as Ted, also gains a MBE. He has been at Downing Street since 1973 when Edward Heath was prime minister.

New peers, page 6

Peerages for three pillars of industry

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PEERAGES have gone to three leading industrialists who have been long-term close advisers and prominent Conservative party supporters but who have also taken concrete steps to help implement government initiatives.

Sir Hector Laing, who retired from the chairmanship of United Biscuits in May after transforming it from a small family business over 45 years, has long been an apostle of removing government interference in free markets, encouraging personal initiative and curbing trade union power. He was a trusted friend and informal adviser to Mrs Thatcher.

Sir Hector is noted for leading his company in good industrial relations and retaining its family atmosphere. Sir Hector is a champion of long-term thinking and investment and has been a noted scourge of City takeover bids selling Britain short.

Sir Jeffrey Sterling built his own commercial property empire and is now chairman of P&O, the transport and construction group.

He was the unpaid official industrial adviser at the trade and industry department for most of the Thatcher period.

He is a close friend of Lord Young and was appointed by Patrick Jenkin to succeed him as industrial adviser in 1982. He stepped down in August, having been an architect of the change in policy to use privatisation to encourage mass share ownership.

Sir Gordon White is the equal in Hanson plc of Lord Hanson, who was previously ennobled at Mrs Thatcher's behest. Hanson has been particularly influential in promoting free financial markets and has come to the prime minister's aid at difficult moments, notably by buying a stake in Westland and using it to support Cabinet policy.

Geoffrey Leigh, chairman of Allied London Properties, who is knighted, is a substantial personal financial backer of the Conservative party as well as an energetic fund-raiser for the party and for several charities, including the Prince's Youth Business Trust.

BSB users given two years' grace

The merged British Sky Broadcasting will be allowed to continue transmitting on BSB's Marco Polo satellite until the end of 1992, the IBA and its successor, the Independent Television Commission, have ruled (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Although the merger constituted a "serious breach" of BSB's programme contract with the IBA, the broadcasting regulator has opted not to revoke the contract as early as expected to allow BSB "squirrels" owners the option in 1992 of subscribing to new channels on Marco Polo.

The ITC is also to award BSkyB a non-domestic satellite television programme licence from January 1. The company will, however, be required to appoint two independent directors with powers of veto to ensure the contractual obligations of the merged group are honoured. The directors, one nominated by News International and the other by BSB shareholders, are to be appointed by March subject to ITC approval.

HTV jobs axed

HTV announced yesterday that 200 jobs would be cut from the beginning of next year. The West Country and Wales television station said the redundancies were necessary because of the rising costs of the government levy on independent television companies and falling advertising revenue. Patrick Dromgoole, the chief executive, said: "I bitterly regret having to make this announcement, particularly at this time of the year."

Health reforms

NHS reforms are to be piloted in six health authorities as part of £3 million project, the government announced yesterday. Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive, said that although some districts would implement changes faster than others, reforms would take place throughout the service from April. The areas are Cornwall and Isles of Scilly; Halton; St Helens; Knowsley and Warrington; Newcastle; Portsmouth; Wands-worth; and West Dorset.

Libel jury out

The jury in the libel action brought by Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, against the *News of the World* had still to reach a verdict after an afternoon's deliberations when the court adjourned last night. Mr Justice Drake, in his summing up, earlier told the jury that it had to choose whether they preferred to believe Mrs Sutcliffe's evidence or that of Barbara Jones, the journalist who accompanied her on a holiday to Greece.

CORRECTION

In the table showing results in the German election (December 4) the number of seats won by the Christian Democratic Union should have been 268, making the coalition total 398.

THIS SATURDAY
AT HARRODS,
JEFFREY ARCHER WILL
BE WRITING A
NEW BEGINNING TO
ALL HIS BOOKS.

Novelist and playwright Jeffrey Archer will be coming to Harrods Book Department this Saturday. He'll be signing copies of all his books, from 'Kane and Abel' to 'A Twist in the Tale'. You can meet him and pick up your favourite title between 10am and 12.30pm. If you cannot come to Harrods a signed copy of any of the books can be reserved or sent to you. Please phone for details of prices.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY HODDER AND STOUGHTON.

Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Tel: 071-730 1234.

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

State sector holds own at Oxford

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

STATE school pupils are holding their own with students from the independent sector in Oxford university examinations, an unpublished study shows. Admissions tutors believe, however, that there is now little scope for increasing the number of state school pupils at the university.

An analysis of undergraduate results from 1984-5 showed that pupils from independent schools were only slightly ahead of those from state schools in terms of first-class degrees. Grammar schools produced the most first- and second-class honours and the least failures.

Brian Smith, who chairs Oxford's admissions committee, interprets the results as evidence that the university's recruitment policies are about right. Writing in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today, he adds that the state intake has reached a plateau and, in spite of further efforts to encourage state school applications, the ratio is unlikely to change significantly.

State entrants formed a majority for the first time in 1980 and have made up roughly half the intake ever since. Oxford university said that it was not complacent about the figures. "They are a matter of continuing concern," a spokeswoman said.

The study showed that 14.1 per cent of independent school pupils achieved first-class degrees compared with 13.7 per cent from grammar schools and 13.1 per cent from comprehensives.

MP calls for an army-police link after RUC man killed

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BELFAST

BETTER co-ordination of police and army resources in Ulster was demanded yesterday by a Unionist MP after an RUC reservist, William Weathers, aged 46, was shot dead by gunmen lying in wait as he drove up the lane leading to his home outside Lurgan, Co Armagh.

His black Mini was raked by automatic fire minutes after he

had signed off duty at Lurgan police station at midnight.

Constable Weathers, a full-timer in the RUC Reserves for 15 years, was the 75th victim of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland this year and the 12th police officer killed.

Seven people have been murdered close to Lurgan in the past three months, four of them wild-

flower, including two policemen, ambushed beside Lough Neagh last month.

Ken Maginnis, the Unionists' security spokesman at Westminster, said he was amazed that more security resources had not been employed in the area. "There is a need for much greater awareness of soft targets who are vulnerable," he said. "If we had seen a pattern of patrolling in that area it would have put the terrorists on unsound ground and this man's life might have been saved."

As Constable Weathers was being mourned and his wife and four children - all of whom heard the gunfire in which their father died - were being comforted by clergy, relatives and friends, the IRA mounted another unsuccessful "human bomb" attack.

Armed and masked men stopped a milk float in the border village of Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh, at about 10am and took the driver's helper hostage. They forced the driver to take the float, loaded with a bomb, to the permanent border checkpoint at nearby Kilturb.

He was able to stop the vehicle about 20 yards short of the checkpoint and shout a warning to the soldiers manning it. Security forces each side of the border cordoned off the area and six hours later the bomb had not exploded.

In Belfast the IRA's "hoax" campaign, which paralysed traffic all over the city on Wednesday afternoon and evening, continued yesterday. The army dealt with nine alerts involving suspect vehicles and packages; all proved to be hoaxes.

Space projects shelved in funding cutbacks

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL space and astronomy projects are in jeopardy because of the deepening crisis in British science and technology funding.

A telescope for studying galaxies, an observatory for detecting gravitational waves bombarding the Earth from exploding stars, and an installation for measuring atmospheric reactions that cause the Northern Lights are being shelved, the Science and Engineering Research Council said yesterday.

The decision to delay the £38 million telescope, a flagship collaboration between Britain, America and Canada, has been taken to cut costs. It had been planned as the largest optical telescope in the northern hemisphere, with Britain contributing £20 million.

A similar fate has been decided for the British-German project to detect gravitational waves and

check Einstein's theory of relativity, which was planned for Bavaria. Also shelved is the Polar cap radar, to be built at Spitsbergen, an archipelago off Norway, and due to study the reactions of charged particles in the upper atmosphere which cause luminous effects like the aurora borealis.

The council is facing a £40 million deficit between 1991-2 after the latest public expenditure allocation and is looking at cuts of 10 per cent from its budget of about £450 million. More than £1.5 million will be saved by delaying the telescope and the detectors.

A spokesman said that more announcements would be made in February by the council's policy group, adding that unless more funds were found Britain would also have to withdraw from two joint space projects.

مكذوب الاميل

Parents seek guilty men as drug girl is jailed for 25 years

By NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK AND NICHOLAS WATT

PARENTS of Karyn Smith, who was sentenced in Thailand yesterday to 25 years' imprisonment for attempted heroin trafficking, said last night they hoped that British police would take action against the guilty men who had set up their daughter.

Eric and Marilyn Smith, from Solihull, West Midlands, said in Bangkok that the British police had information about them. They also had two handwritten postcards which were sent to Smith in prison by a Birmingham man threatening her with physical violence if she gave information to the police. Mr and Mrs Smith said they believed their

daughter, aged 19, was set up by the Birmingham men to carry drugs and were still convinced she was unaware of what she was doing.

That was also the view of Smith's British lawyer, Stephen Jakobi. Smith and her travelling companion, Patricia Cahill, aged 17, from Birmingham, were arrested in July at Don Mueang airport, Bangkok, as they tried to board a Singapore Airlines flight to Amsterdam with onward tickets to The Gambia. Their baggage was found to contain 26kg of high-grade heroin with an estimated street value of £4 million.

Mr Jakobi said that Miss

Cahill had asked Smith to join her on a business trip to Thailand with her boyfriend. He did not turn up and the two women travelled on their own and were looked after by "friendly" men in Thailand.

Judge Nori Chamthorn at the Thai criminal court said yesterday that he did not believe Smith's claim that she was unaware of the heroin in her baggage when she was arrested. He said her offence warranted life imprisonment, which in Thailand meant that, but he was reducing the sentence to 25 years because she had pleaded guilty, had no criminal record and was only 19. She had also co-operated with the police.

Smith stood bare-footed in the witness box and said nothing as her sentence was pronounced, but turned to face the courtroom and flung herself into her mother's arms. Mrs Smith broke down but her daughter appeared calm and collected. She smiled as she hugged and kissed her mother and said: "I love you. Keep strong."

Mr Smith ruled out an appeal as it might impede the appeal his daughter could make in six months to Thailand's King Bhumibol for an act of royal clemency to reduce the sentence. Witawat Purnphol, Smith's Thai lawyer, thought she had a good chance of being set free in that way after she had served three or four years in prison.

Miss Cahill is being tried separately in the juvenile court. She is accused of the same offences, but has pleaded not guilty. A verdict is expected next month.

Mr Jakobi said he had put the prosecution case against his client to British judges and leading QCs who had all confirmed her innocence. He emphasised, however, that the Thais had been "decent and generous" by stretching their justice system to speed Smith's trial.



Karyn Smith, in jail uniform, leaving court in Bangkok yesterday to start a 25-year sentence for attempting to smuggle heroin. She may appeal for royal clemency

Terrorists continue to haunt West in spite of changes

ON THE second anniversary of the Lockerbie bombing today the investigators from Britain, the United States and West Germany are close to completing their work. They may soon publicly say who blew up Pan Am flight 103. What they cannot give is a guarantee it will not happen again.

Any intelligence analyst's assessment of terrorist threats today would paint a mixed picture. The communist regimes of eastern Europe which bolstered terrorist groups have fallen, other countries have disavowed terrorism but the Middle East remains the cockpit of terrorist violence. The invasion of Kuwait can only intensify the risk.

The main cause for hope lies in the political changes being wrought in Czechoslovakia, former East Germany, Romania and Bulgaria where the old regimes which provided arms and training for terrorists have collapsed. The Soviet Union, once regarded as a secret sponsor of terrorism, has too many internal problems to concentrate on international subversion — even if it wished to.

In the Middle East, however, where the terrorist threat is higher than ever, the state backers remain the same, even if the political leaders have suddenly become more acceptable to the West because of their support for the anti-Iraq coalition.

Syria still supports terrorism, as does Iran. Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, tried to acquire respectability by offering

Two years after the Pan Am bomb, Stewart Tandler and Michael Evans look at how the terrorist threat has altered

"moderation" but his new image has been undermined by his support for President Saddam.

Western intelligence agencies are convinced it was Iran that issued the contract that led to the destruction of the Pan Am flight. Now the organisations which were prepared to do Iran's bidding, such as Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, are lined up to help President Saddam.

If there is war in the Gulf, Western experts are convinced that Iraq's response will include a terrorist campaign against Western targets. They argue that the Iraqis have no other way of taking the war far beyond their own frontiers and one British expert said: "If war broke out you could see an increase in terrorism on aircraft such as sabotage."

Each country in the anti-Iraq alliance has been warned that its airlines would be at risk.

Some terrorist threats, however, remain unknown: have the changes in Beirut removed the threat of attacks by fundamentalist groups? Where does Colonel Qadhafi stand now? And has Cuba finally abandoned its interest in undermining the West?

Charitable approach to prisoners abroad

By ANDREW LYCETT

HUNDREDS of Britons abroad face the same lonely Christmas behind bars about to be served by Karyn Smith.

According to the Foreign Office, 1,796 Britons are held in foreign prisons, 1,177 of them on the European mainland. About half were sentenced for drugs offences but the list also includes such people as Roger Cooper, the businessman held since 1985 for alleged spying in Iran, and Ian Richter, another businessman, who was convicted of bribing officials in Iraq in February 1987.

Keith Best, director of the charity Prisoners Abroad, said that many had not been charged. "Others have been convicted by systems of justice very different from our own. Some languish in appalling, fetid conditions. These are the people who are forgotten over Christmas."

Often they are closer to home than might be expected. Next week Eve Robinson, a journalist, will spend her second

Christmas imprisoned without charge in Spain. She was arrested in September last year after drugs were found at a Malaga marina where she was staying, though nothing was found on her. Her health has deteriorated and her daughter, Cassandra, aged seven, has had to be repatriated to Britain.

In France, the authorities do not allow prisoners to receive parcels from abroad. So Prisoners Abroad has sent £18 money orders to allow the French Red Cross to buy extra provisions for each of 50 needy Britons spending Christmas in jail there.

The charity employs four full-time case workers to assist 435 British prisoners abroad and much of its work is done before prisoners are charged. However, resources are limited. The charity's £200,000 budget is funded partly by the Home Office and the London boroughs' grant unit, but most of the money comes from individual donations.

Kasparov in chess turmoil

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov, the world chess champion, had difficulties yesterday analysing the adjourned position of the 21st game of his title defence against Anatoly Karpov in Lyons. He stayed awake until 4am going over the complexities which have left him facing serious problems in trying to force a draw.

By ingenious defence in the second session of play in France on Wednesday night he reduced the end game to one in which white had queen and knight against black's queen and two pawns.

This should lead to a draw. The moves so far:

Kasparov white	Kasparov black
1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	g6
3 Nc3	Bg7
4 e4	d5
5 f2	dxc4
6 Bxc4	Qd5
7 Qe2	Nf6
8 Qd2	Qd5
9 Qd2	Qd5
10 Bc3	Qd5
11 dxc5	Nf6
12 Nf3	Qd5
13 Bb5	Qd5
14 Bb5	Qd5
15 Bb5	Qd5
16 Bb5	Qd5
17 Bb5	Qd5
18 Bb5	Qd5
19 Bb5	Qd5
20 Bb5	Qd5
21 Bb5	Qd5
22 Bb5	Qd5
23 Bb5	Qd5
24 Bb5	Qd5
25 Bb5	Qd5
26 Bb5	Qd5
27 Bb5	Qd5
28 Bb5	Qd5
29 Bb5	Qd5
30 Bb5	Qd5
31 Bb5	Qd5
32 Bb5	Qd5
33 Bb5	Qd5

Study says role of pornography in crime unproven

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE supposed causal link between pornography and sexual offences is unproven, according to a study published yesterday.

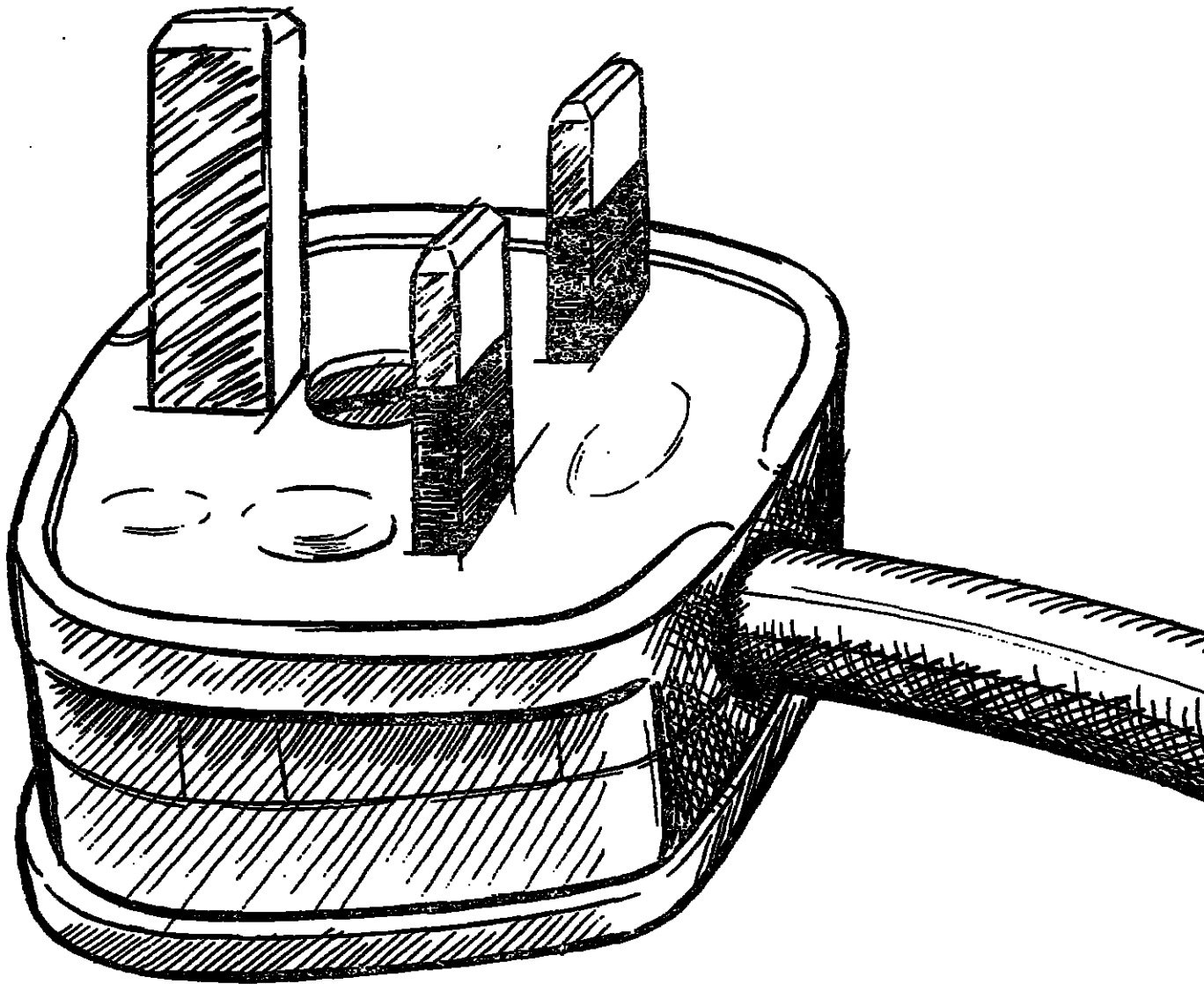
The long-awaited study, commissioned by the Home Office, found that while sex offenders often looked at obscene videos or magazines before or during crimes, there was no conclusive proof that pornography caused acts such as rape or indecent exposure.

Dismissing existing research as incomplete and partial, the report accuses people of being too quick to assume a positive link. The researchers say that evidence of the adverse effects of pornography is far less clear cut than is widely assumed. Studies in Europe and the United States have reached different conclusions and results of field studies and laboratory tests



Baker: accepted that the research was inconclusive

Leading article, page 13



MONEY RETURNED? PLUG INTO ABBEY NATIONAL'S INSTANT SAVER ACCOUNT.

Not as many shares as you expected? Money returned? Shares to sell? Whatever you find in your post take a look at our new Instant Saver Account.

The table speaks for itself. Six excellent levels of interest. The more you save, the higher your rate. And it goes up automatically. So, as your savings grow, there's no need to switch to a different type of account.

You have instant access to your money, with no penalty for withdrawal. What's more

INSTANT SAVER ACCOUNT		
	NET RATE P.A.	GROSS RATE P.A.
£1 up to £499	6.23%	8.30%
£500 up to £2,499	9.38%	12.50%
£2,500 up to £4,999	9.64%	12.85%
£5,000 up to £9,999	9.86%	13.15%
£10,000 up to £24,999	10.27%	13.70%
£25,000 plus	10.46%	13.95%

if you're an eligible non-taxpayer your interest can be paid gross on or after 6th April 1991.

If you are now an electricity share-holder, you might be interested in the Abbey National Share Dealing Service. Use this service to sell your shares and you won't be waiting for a cheque in the post, as your money can be paid directly into your Abbey National Account.

So whether your money is in shares, or back in your hand, you'll find you're better off with Abbey National.

THE NEW INSTANT SAVER ACCOUNT



Rates may vary. Interest will be paid net of basic rate tax at the appropriate rate or gross, subject to receipt from non-taxpayers of registration required by the Inland Revenue. Non-taxpayers who receive interest net of basic rate tax may be able to reclaim this tax from the Inland Revenue. If the account is closed prior to April 5th, 1991, interest rates will be paid at the net rates, the basic rate tax liability on which will be discharged by us and cannot be reclaimed by you. Assuming basic rate tax at 25%. You can withdraw £250 in cash or £15,000 by cheque per day. Larger amounts are available by prior arrangement. The Share Dealing Service has been arranged with Sharelink Limited, a member of the International Stock Exchange and the Securities Association. Abbey National plc is regulated in the conduct of investment business by S.I.E.

18005

Commuters to sue British Rail over 'unreliable' service

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND FRANCES GIBB

BRITISH Rail is being sued for negligence and misrepresentation in an outburst of commuter power on an InterCity line where 60 per cent of services regularly run late.

In what is believed to be the first action of its kind, 62 passengers facing fare increases of up to 15 per cent in January issued a writ yesterday claiming damages against British Railways and InterCity's Anglia region.

Commuters on the line from Norwich to London, Liverpool Street, which is plagued by the inadequacies of 25-year-old locomotives and decrepit rolling stock, immediately raised nearly three times the money necessary from a £1-a-head subscription when a small group decided on legal action. The writ was issued in the High Court by Colin Campbell, a London solicitor from Syleham, north Suffolk, who commutes from Diss, Norfolk.

It accuses British Rail of negligence for failing to provide a reasonable service and misrepresentation over its

allegedly false inducement to passengers to buy season tickets in return for reliable trains.

During the 115-mile journey through Norfolk and Suffolk on what is known as the Cinderella line, Mr Campbell said: "We have used every other avenue and they have provided us with no satisfactory answer, while the service continues to deteriorate. We have no alternative but to go to the due process of law."

"We shouldn't have started this unless we thought we had a good prospect of success, even though we are taking on a nationalised industry."

The legal action coincides with a move by the Consumers' Association to challenge British Rail over its conditions of carriage. The association is calling for commuters to log journeys to provide the ammunition for possible court cases. Those would test whether the blanket exclusion of liability laid down by British Rail is reasonable under the Unfair Contract Terms Act of 1977.

The actions come in the wake of a disclosure by the rail watchdog, the Central Trans-

port Consultative Committee, that a record 90,000 trains were cancelled last year and that passenger complaints rose by 50 per cent.

As passengers from East Anglia poured into London yesterday, commuter frustrations were freely expressed.

Chris Bunting, aged 34, from Diss, marketing director for a law firm and co-ordinator of the commuter group, said: "Why should BR be allowed to believe they have fulfilled their contract simply by delivering us alive?"

Chris Sowerby, aged 42, a company director from Ipswich, said: "When I started doing this journey my wife was convinced I was getting home late so often. I catch an earlier train than I should need to make a 30-minute allowance for arriving late."

Tony Armes, aged 42, an insurance broker from Ipswich, said: "I changed my job six months ago. I am already being labelled a latecomer through no fault of mine." British Rail declined to comment.



Passenger power: Chris Bunting, co-ordinator of the commuter group on the Norwich to Liverpool Street line, during yesterday morning's journey to London

Frustration rides the 08.05 train from Norwich

The train now arriving at Liverpool Street... is up to 45 minutes behind schedule. Michael Horsnell joined a typical commuter run to report on the frustration of those suing British Rail

THE despondency of passengers on board the InterCity 08.05 from Norwich to London was scarcely alleviated when the conductor opted for a cheery approach after the train broke down at Chadwell Heath station, 10 miles from its destination.

"This is a late train, a dead train, a deceased train," he announced as he shepherded 370 people onto the unscheduled suburban platform to await a local service, which eventually got them to Liverpool Street 45 minutes late.

That was on October 4, but the bad start to the day was only the beginning of worse to come. Shortly after people struggled to work they found British Rail rubbing salt in the wound with the announcement of unspecified fare increases to be implemented on January 6.

A survey by *The Times* shows that since October passengers have endured delays three mornings out of five on the 08.05. It is understood that for their unreliable service InterCity commuters in the Anglia region, who account for 30 per cent of all passengers on the line, will have to pay 14.93 per cent more for standard class season tickets from Norwich, which will go up to £3,480 a year, 10.92 per cent more from Ipswich (up to £2,560), and an extra 9.7 per cent (up to £1,900) from Colchester. The price of an annual first-class season ticket from Norwich is going up by 18.8 per cent to £5,220.

The value for money passengers are getting has been scrutinised by *The Times* over the 55 working days between October 4 and December 19. The survey, the *Anatomy of the 08.05*, found that the train, which is scheduled to arrive at Liverpool Street at 09.55 after calling at Diss, Stowmarket, Ipswich and Colchester, ran late 60 per cent of the time (33 journeys). The Anglia region has a punctual performance target of 65 per cent, however.

The region has a second performance target - 90 per cent of the 41 trains it runs in both directions each weekday should arrive within ten minutes of schedule. The researchers found that on 22 days (40 per cent) the 08.05 failed to meet that target. The average delay on the 33 late trains was 17 minutes 56.3 seconds -

allowing for two delays of 60 minutes on each of the occasions when the 08.05 was cancelled.

The 13 locomotives employed on the Norwich to Liverpool Street service are not of the costly 125 high-speed variety, said to be more suited to longer runs, but class 86 models built in 1965. They can travel at 100mph but take one hour 50 minutes to complete the 115-mile journey when they are on schedule and have a reliability rate of 33,000 miles between failures, according to British Rail.

In October refurbished 15-year-old DVT (driving van trailer) push-pull units, which started life on the Glasgow-Edinburgh service, were introduced, but electrical problems have affected their reliability.

Ernie Sumbler, InterCity manager for Anglia region, says British Rail is paying the price for the austerity years of the late 1960s and the 70s when fares and investment were low. Some of the infrastructure goes back to the second world war, although electrification of the line was completed in 1988 and an £80 million rolling resigalling programme is due to be completed by 1995. Improved signalling will mean that trains may more easily switch from down to up lines and vice versa to bypass a broken down train. In addition more money will be spent on modernising the rolling stock. To make passengers feel better when they arrive late, the £1.1 billion redevelopment of Liverpool Street station will be completed next year.

Mr Sumbler said: "The railway was allowed to rot in the past. Despite what has been done since, I am not happy about things and what people think of us, and when I go past the concourse and see the arrivals board I get very depressed."

InterCity, which last year made a profit of £46.4 million, has operated without government grants since 1988 and is required to plan on the basis of a rate of return of 8 per cent on all its investment projects. Anglia has declined to say what its regional profit was last year but commuters now taking legal action over its performance would like to know if the fare increases they are being asked to pay might not fund a railway of the 90s.

NO MATTER HOW YOU EMERGE FROM THE ELECTRICITY SHARE ISSUE, IT MAKES SENSE TO PLUG INTO BARCLAYS.

When the current share supply stops flowing, you'll find we're still switched on at Barclays.

If you're one of those who didn't get any shares or received only a partial allocation, there's no need to blow a fuse.

Instead, you might consider the Barclays Higher Rate Deposit Account.

A savings account that generates 8.5% net interest on sums between £500 and £1,999.

And then surges through three more tiers of rising interest to a top rate of 9.5% net for balances of £25,000 and above.

It also offers instant access to your money and the choice of interest paid either monthly or quarterly.

On the other hand, for those of you who have received all your shares and wish to sell, there's the Barclayshare dealing service.

A fast, convenient service available to both customer and non-customer, through every branch of Barclays.

Come settlement date, we can pay the proceeds into your Higher Rate Deposit Account or, at your request, we can open one for you.

No wonder switched on investors conduct business at Barclays.

To find out more, phone the Barclays Information Line free on 0800 400 100.

+++ YOU'RE BETTER OFF TALKING TO BARCLAYS

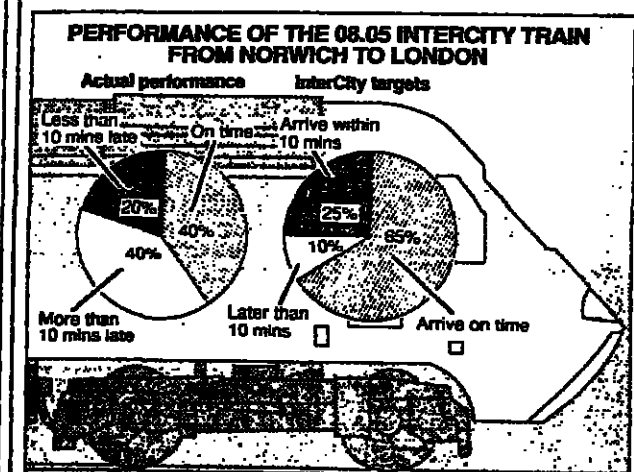
CALL THE BARCLAYS INFORMATION LINE ON 0800 400 100 FREE

INTEREST RATES MAY VARY. NET RATE QUOTED IS FOR QUARTERLY PAYMENT OF INTEREST WHERE THREE IS NOT OTHER LIABILITY TO BASIC RATE TAX. MONTHLY RATES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. PLC OFFICE: BARCLAYS BANK PLC, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, EC3P 3AH. REG. NO. 1000000.

LIVE WIRE RECEIVED ALL YOUR SHARES.

NEUTRAL RECEIVED SOME SHARES AND A CHEQUE.

DOWN TO EARTH. YOUR CHEQUE RETURNED.



Crossbow ban urged

A judge called for a ban on crossbow sales yesterday after jailing a soldier for life for murdering his mother and her lover. Mr Justice Potts was speaking at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court where David Nicholson, aged 18, had pleaded guilty to murdering his mother, Anne Nicholson, aged 39, and William Kent, aged 51, in June.

The court was told that Nicholson, who bought the crossbow with his mother the day before, took the bodies from the house in Washington, Tyne and Wear, and hid them in a garden shed.

Tribunal date

An industrial tribunal hearing at which Alison Halford, assistant chief constable of Merseyside, will accuse the police authorities of sexual discrimination, will go ahead on January 7 in spite of an appeal by the police and the home office for an adjournment.

Fish warning

People eating fish caught in the Irish Sea are getting higher doses of radiation as the effects of previous discharges from Sellafield are now evident, British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday.

Road closed

The A57 Snake Pass between Sheffield and Manchester will be closed for several days after being blocked by a landslide caused by heavy rain yesterday.

Libel settlement

The Independent has made a donation to the National Aids Foundation in settlement of a libel action brought by Robert Maxwell, the publisher.

Water ruling

South West Water authority was cleared yesterday of polluting the Camel with aluminium sulphate. The authority denies a further charge of causing a public nuisance.

Arsonist held

A boy aged 15 from St Austell, Cornwall, who started fires causing £300,000 in damage because he liked to see fire engines in action, was detained for up to 10 years yesterday.

Running scared

A driver in Coleford, Gloucestershire, who saw a police checkpoint and, believing he would fail a breath test, rolled down a bank, waded through a brook and ate bread from a bird-table to soak up the alcohol was found by police not to have been over the limit.

Talking turkey

The prime minister was given a 32lb turkey by the British Turkey Federation yesterday.

مكذبات الأصل



COURVOISIER.
And the evening began.

Labour dismisses ministers' plan for Scottish senate

By KERRY GILL

A GOVERNMENT plan to establish a Scottish senate as a muted form of devolution was dismissed last night by the Labour party as merely a belated recognition of the popular demand for a full Scottish parliament.

The government and senior members of the Conservative party are examining the possibility of the creation of a Scottish senate in Edinburgh that would take control of some functions controlled by the regional councils and could question the work of the Scottish Office.

The Scottish National Party said the idea was totally inadequate and a "half-baked load of nonsense".

The option, which has come under consideration since John Major became prime minister, would lead to the abolition of the regional councils, leaving a single tier of district local authorities. Members of the senate would be elected, initially having two representatives from each of the nine regions.

It would not have power to raise revenue, but would take over functions such as roads.

The Scottish Office would control education, fire and the police.

The idea is seen as a way of undermining demands for a Scottish parliament with revenue-raising powers, called for by the constitutional convention, most of whose members belong to the Labour party.

The convention, a group of Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians, trade unionists, churchmen and councillors, issued a detailed demand for home rule last month. Today, it will present its agenda for the second stage of its campaign, "Towards Scotland's Parliament".

Murray Elder, Labour's Scottish secretary, said: "For the first time the government seems to be admitting that there is a need for change and that, at least, has to be welcomed. The main purpose appears to be for a very small senate whose principal role is to oversee the functions of the Scottish Office. It will not for a moment have powers to tell the Scottish Office what to do."

Mr Elder said the option under discussion did not address the fundamental call for a democratically accountable body with powers to make decisions on Scottish matters. The senate, he said, would be toothless and would only comment on rather than control the Scottish Office.

Allan Stewart, Scottish minister with responsibility for local government, has long favoured a single tier and the abolition of the regional councils. Last night, devolutionists believed that the report, which emerged yesterday, was a way of defusing the second stage of the home rule campaign, to be announced today.

Alex Salmond, the nationalist leader, said: "This proposal is pathetically inadequate. With no real legislative or financial powers and no voice in Europe, it is not even in the same ball park as what Scotland really needs in the new Europe of the Nineties."

The Tory scheme was trailed by Bill Walker, MP for Tayside North and vice-chairman of the Scottish party. He has discussed the idea with Mr Stewart and will publish a discussion document on the proposals in the new year.



Party mood: Neil Kinnock during his visit to the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Belfast yesterday

New peers give Tories bigger majority

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE creation of seven life peers today in Margaret Thatcher's resignation honours list confirms the overall majority for the Conservatives in the Lords as well as in the Commons.

In the past, after defeats in

the upper House the government managers have always argued that the Tories did not have a majority over the combined forces of independent and Opposition peers.

Mrs Thatcher's custom of ensuring that more Tories than independent or Opposition peers were created in

the Lords, an extra seven

peers. The official composition before today's additions reads: Conservatives 443; independent (unwhipped) including bishops, 256; Labour, 113; Liberal Democrat, 55; and Social Democrat, 17.

Many of the peers will never or rarely appear in the Lords either through apathy, old age or pressure of other business.

Unlike the Commons whips, Lord Denham has no sanctions to hold over any disobedient peers who take the Tory whip.

The overall majority will make government defeats less likely. But Lord Waddington, the new leader of the Lords, with the support of John Major, is also committed to improving relations both between the government and the Lords and members of both Houses.

In recent years most of the big Lords rebellions on poll tax, education and local government reforms were led by Tory peers disenchanted with Mrs Thatcher's policies. Tension between the Conservative benches and the government was further increased by the former prime minister's perceived indifference to the workload imposed on peers by heavy, often poorly drafted, legislation.

The new prime minister signalled a different approach by appointing the former home secretary Lord Waddington to be leader of the Lords and by sitting in the chamber during his maiden speech to the upper House last week.

Lord Waddington has also retained his parliamentary private secretary, Martin Brandon-Bravo, as a link with the Commons and will encourage Tory backbench MPs to frequent the Lords to break down the ignorance in the elected chamber about the revising work of the peers. In addition, he is to urge Commons ministers to brief peers before their bills arrive in the Lords.

Dobson wants value for cash

The Labour party is putting pressure on the government to get value for the taxpayer when the power-generating companies are sold next year. Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary, said yesterday that the two companies, National Power and PowerGen, are worth together £13.2 billion.

In a letter to John Wakeham, the energy secretary, he says that the government intends to sell them for only £3.5 billion. He maintains that, although the regional electricity companies were worth £16.1 billion, the government priced them at £5.2 billion. "This time even you and your expensive advisers could be wise before the event", Mr Dobson said.

£5bn cheques cashed

Cheques worth about £5.3 billion were cashed by the public for the United Kingdom public offer of shares in the regional electricity distribution companies. About £4.2 billion of that has been repaid as a result of scaled down or unsuccessful applications, David Heathcoat-Amory, energy minister, said in a written Commons reply.

Recycled copy paper

The environment department is conducting trials on the use of recycled paper for high speed photocopying and is considering a trial on its use for computer printers, David Trippier, the environment minister, said in a Commons written reply.

The department uses recycled paper for most of its work and is preparing guidance for other departments on the use of recycled material and on energy efficiency.

Caravan bill

A government bill exempting caravan owners from paying the community charge on their vehicles when they are used only for holidays was given an unopposed second reading in the Lords.

Christmas break

Both Houses of Parliament rose for the Christmas recess. They will return on January 14.

Fierce protests at government letter

By JOHN WINDER

A LETTER sent by a minister to all MPs to rally opposition to a backbencher's bill led to bitter protests yesterday and an appeal to the Speaker.

The Independent Social Democrat MP, Rosie Barnes, complained that William Waldegrave, the health secretary, had criticised her bill without having read it.

Mrs Barnes, MP for Greenwich, said last night: "I am outraged. My bill has not been published and was only deposited today. The minister made a series of criticisms which are addressed and met in the bill."

The bill, to provide for compensation for mistakes made in the National Health Service without the need to establish negligence, is first on the list for debate on February 1. That would give it a good chance of receiving second reading unless the government organises opposition.

The minister's letter said that the bill was not the most effective way of achieving Mrs Barnes's objective.

The bill would end the present situation in which

those who want to obtain damages for injuries resulting from NHS treatment have to prove negligence. The principle has led to strong criticism of the government over attempts by haemophiliacs to get compensation because of HIV-infected blood used in their treatment.

In her letter to the Speaker, Mrs Barnes described the minister's round robin as a grave contempt of the procedures of the House.

The bill, the text of which was released yesterday, would secure for NHS patients the same implied terms of quality and description in respect of goods, including medicines, blood and appliances, as private patients. It would set up a medical injuries compensation board to establish a fund so that the government no longer found itself opposing claims for compensation.

Mrs Barnes's supporters believe that the government wants the bill to be lost for lack of positive support rather than rejected on a vote in what may be election year.

Ulster protection

SECURITY forces in Fermanagh, the south-west border county of Northern Ireland, are to increase operations so as to protect and reassure those who have been put at risk there in the latest resurgence of intimidation and threats (John Winder writes).

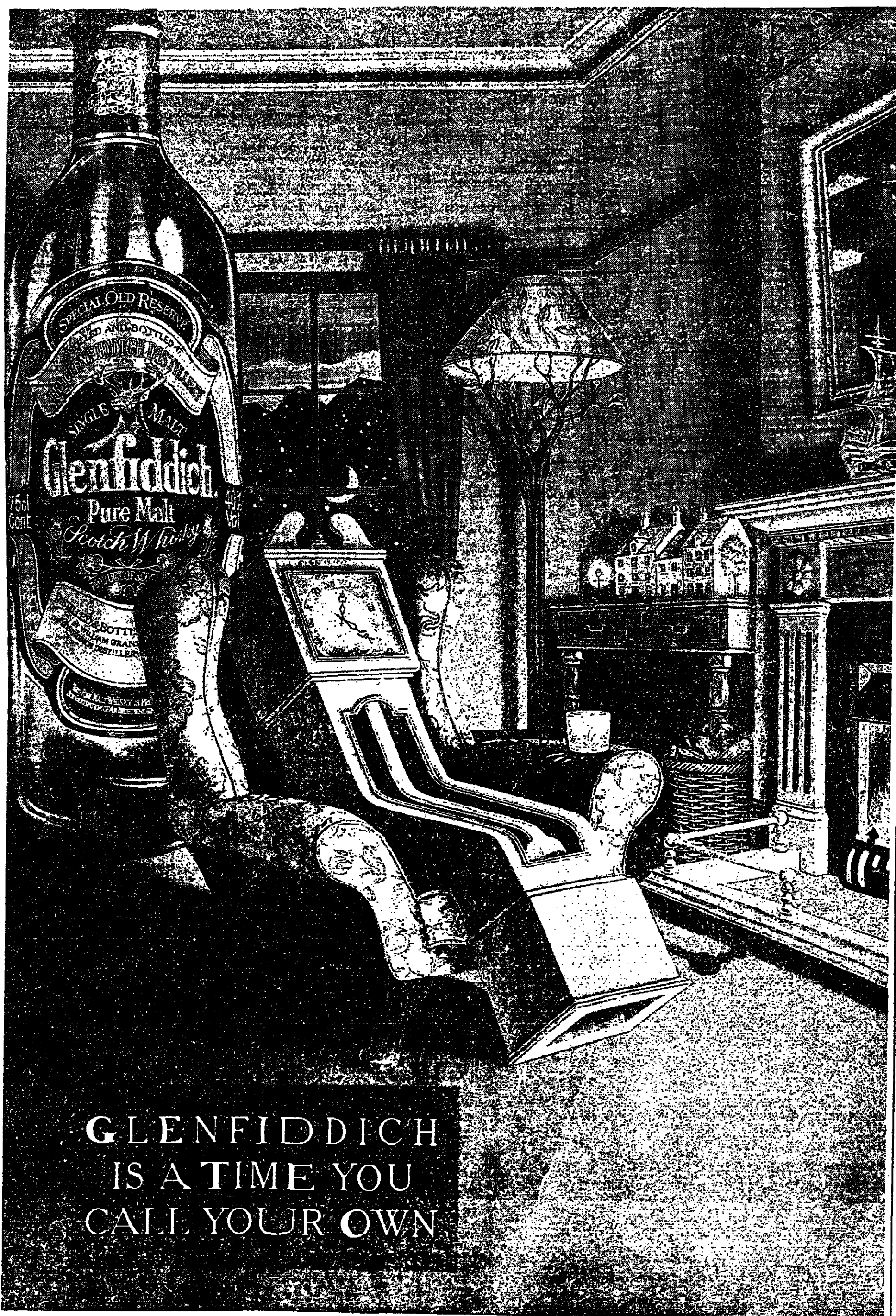
Brian Mawhinney, Northern Ireland minister, told the Commons yesterday that measures were in place to protect people at risk.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, had condemned those who criticised traders who ad-

vertised that they would not serve the security forces because they had been threatened by the IRA with reprisals against their families.

He knew how he would feel if, living in that kind of isolated community, he had a phone call saying that if he did not want to see his twin sons in their coffins, he should not serve the security forces.

He complained that closing some checkpoints on the border had left Protestant families in a government-created no man's land, and they were terrified.



GLENFIDDICH
IS A TIME YOU
CALL YOUR OWN

مكذوب من الأصل

US seeks to limit damage of warning by Gulf chief

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE United States struggled to heal a weakened strategy of diplomatic pressure on Baghdad yesterday after the deputy commander of American forces in the Gulf said his troops would not be ready to attack Iraq by January 15.

Pentagon officials accompanying Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, on a visit to the Gulf tried to play down remarks made by Calvin Waller, a lieutenant-general and second in command to Norman Schwarzkopf in Operation Desert Shield, in an unusually candid interview with reporters. General Waller was widely seen as undermin-

ing the Bush administration's efforts to coerce President Saddam Hussein into withdrawing from Kuwait before the United Nations deadline or risk the use of force against his troops.

It was not immediately clear to what extent the general had spoken out of line or was merely reflecting in public increasing warnings to the White House by senior military officials that American troops will not be ready to launch an offensive by the United Nations deadline authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

The defensive reaction of administration officials appeared to scotch speculation among foreign policy analysts and some members of Congress that the general was deliberately trying to misinform Baghdad about America's intentions in the Gulf.

In Saudi Arabia, one administration official said America had "never said, 'January 15, 16 or 23 is when we are going to go to war'."

"If I were Saddam Hussein, I would still worry about January 15," the official added. "He cannot know what we will do if he does not get out." Pete Williams, the Pentagon spokesman, said Mr Cheney "was not displeased" with the general's comments even though they went beyond similar remarks made by the defence secretary earlier this week.

For weeks, the Pentagon has been expressing support for a more cautious approach to resolving the Gulf confrontation than some of Mr Bush's senior cabinet members. The debate over the timing of a possible attack is split between senior military officials, who would prefer to give newly arrived troops time to acclimatize to the desert and learn to use their equipment, and those who think that delaying an attack until after January 15 would give President Saddam a psychological victory he could exploit for propaganda purposes in the Arab world.

The administration's attempts to play down the importance of January 15 contrasted with recent efforts by senior United States officials, including President Bush, to arrange high-level talks between Iraq and America before the deadline.

The discussions proposed by Washington have been put on ice after Washington argued that a meeting between James Baker, the secretary of state, and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, could not take place as late as January 12, the date offered by Baghdad. Washington has said that President Saddam would not be able to pull back all his troops from Kuwait by the deadline and wants January 3.

As recently as last Monday, President Bush said of the January 15 deadline: "I think that at midnight, if he's not totally out of Kuwait, the United Nations sanctions will be fulfilled."

Ershad's deputy arrested

Dhaka — Police have arrested Bangladesh's former vice-president, Moudud Ahmed, at a hideout, a senior government official said.

"He was arrested by a special squad of police... and brought to his own house where he is now detained," Azimuddin Ahmed, the interior ministry secretary, said. Mr Ahmed went into hiding after Hussain Mohammad Ershad, the former president, was arrested with his family on December 12, having resigned after a violent student campaign. He is under investigation over allegations of corruption. (Reuters)

Army protest

Santiago — Chilean army units ended a day-long protest over reports that the civilian government was seeking the resignation of the armed forces commander, General Augusto Pinochet, the defence minister, Patricio Rojas said. (AFP)

Cocaine pact

Rome — The Sicilian Mafia had a pact with the notorious Medellin drug cartel in Colombia to import and distribute drugs in the Mediterranean region, according to an Italian police report. A total of 1,100lb of cocaine was imported and distributed since 1987. (AFP)

Party outlawed

Bangkok — Burma's military rulers have outlawed the National League for Democracy party that won an overwhelming victory in last May's general election. The move came after the setting-up of a rival democratic government in the jungle. (Reuters)

Over a barrel

Niagara Falls, Ontario — David Munday, whose steel-and-foam rubber barrel became stuck at the brink of Niagara Falls as he was trying to shoot them, has been fined \$Can 4,375 (£1,956). He was fished out of the swirling waters by rescue workers. (AP)

Baghdad in fear as time runs out

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BAGHDAD

A PALPABLE sense of dread has settled over Baghdad, with the growing perception that the time for diplomacy is running out and the Iraqi capital may one day soon come under air attack.

Nearly a million Baghdad residents — one-quarter of the city — are reported to be ready to begin an evacuation exercise today. Word which reached here that American-led ground forces may not be fully ready for combat by January 15, as stated by Brigadier-General Calvin Waller on Wednesday, has not improved morale. Most people know that the combined allied air forces have stated their combat readiness since August. "For us, it is bad enough to know that an air war will be fought, because it will eventually reach Baghdad," said one Iraqi. Another said: "We look to the south (towards Saudi Arabia) and we look to the west (towards Israel), and we see our biggest fears coming from the skies."

In Baghdad, the tops of tall buildings bristle with anti-aircraft guns. The idea of a Tornado or F18 roaring out of the sky is petrifying for those who remember the deadly Iranian bombardments of the capital in late 1986.

A Western diplomat asked: "The US and foreign ministers have set no dates and the foreign hostages are all gone — what do you suppose would give the Iraqis hope for optimism that peace is at hand?"

"They felt a little safer with the hostages around. They thought that would ensure a dialogue, but that card is gone. Now there is a sort of sombre nervousness here."

Another diplomat, when visiting the foreign ministry here recently, saw signs on the staircase saying: *al-Majila* (meaning "to the shelter"). Nervous employees said in state-secret tones that it was "only the way to the basement where we store things".

In the past few months, observers say, several suburbs around Baghdad have been evacuated in drills, as well as some sections of the city itself, especially round the railway and bus stations.

Iraqis say publicly they are ready to meet any challenge short of nuclear attack, including a full-scale bombardment of Baghdad, which observers and diplomats reject as unlikely because huge civilian casualties would rally rather than undermine support for President Saddam Hussein.

But privately, Iraqis show signs that the war of nerves is getting to them. "This is not like the war with Iran," said one waiter. "There would be more planes, more technology against us. The idea scares me."

It also scares them to see reservists being called up in such numbers. Some Iraqis say all men over the age of 18 have now been trained and sent to Kuwait or the Saudi and Turkish borders.

هكذا من الأصل



Question time: Edward Heath reporting to the US Senate armed services committee on the Gulf. The former prime minister, who met President Saddam Hussein in October, was the only non-American asked to testify

Israeli general to give names in bribery scandal

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

A WIDENING bribery scandal involving the Israeli air force's procurement of American-made equipment has prompted calls here for reform in the purchasing system and for the air force commander to resign.

Yesterday, Amnon Strasnov, the military advocate general and chief prosecutor, confirmed that plea-bargaining had started with the main suspect, Brigadier-General Rami Dotan, and said he had agreed to return any money illegally acquired and to name his accomplices. In exchange, General Dotan's wife would not be prosecuted.

The general has not been charged, but has been under arrest since October. It is normal in the Israeli legal system for charges to be delayed until investigations are complete. Israeli media reports say three other people have been arrested, including two civilians and a colonel who headed the air force quartermaster branch.

According to Israeli newspapers, General Dotan and his associates may have garnered as much as \$10 million (£5.2 million) in bribes and kickbacks from buying American

equipment. Israel television this week alleged much of the fraud occurred in 1984 and 1985 while General Dotan was head of the defence ministry acquisition delegation in New York. It also alleged that spare parts and equipment worth millions of pounds never reached their destinations in Israel.

Yesterday, Raanan Cohen, an opposition Labour MP, called on the air force commander, Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, to resign.

Israeli military officials refuse to name the American companies involved, but General Electric has announced in Washington that it has initiated "internal investigations concerning purchase orders placed with companies said to be involved in the Israeli investigations".

This month, Yair Klein, a reserve army colonel, pleaded guilty to exporting military technology and equipment without a licence to Colombia. He worked at a training programme in Colombia which he said assisted farmers threatened by left-wing rebels, but which the Colombian government said trained forces for drug barons.

IF THE
SHARE ISSUE GAVE YOU
A NASTY SHOCK,
HERE'S A NICE ONE.

UP TO

15.33%

GROSS

If you didn't get what you expected when the Electricity shares were allocated, consider our Ninety Day Account.

Currently, we pay 15.33% gross per annum on balances of £1,000; rising to 15.33% gross per

annum on balances of £100,000 or more.

To earn these rates, all we ask is that you give us 90 days' notice of withdrawal.

If you need your money fast, you can withdraw up to 10% of your balance instantly, once

a year, with no penalty.

Call in at your local branch of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society and plug into our Ninety Day Account.

This time you won't be disappointed.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

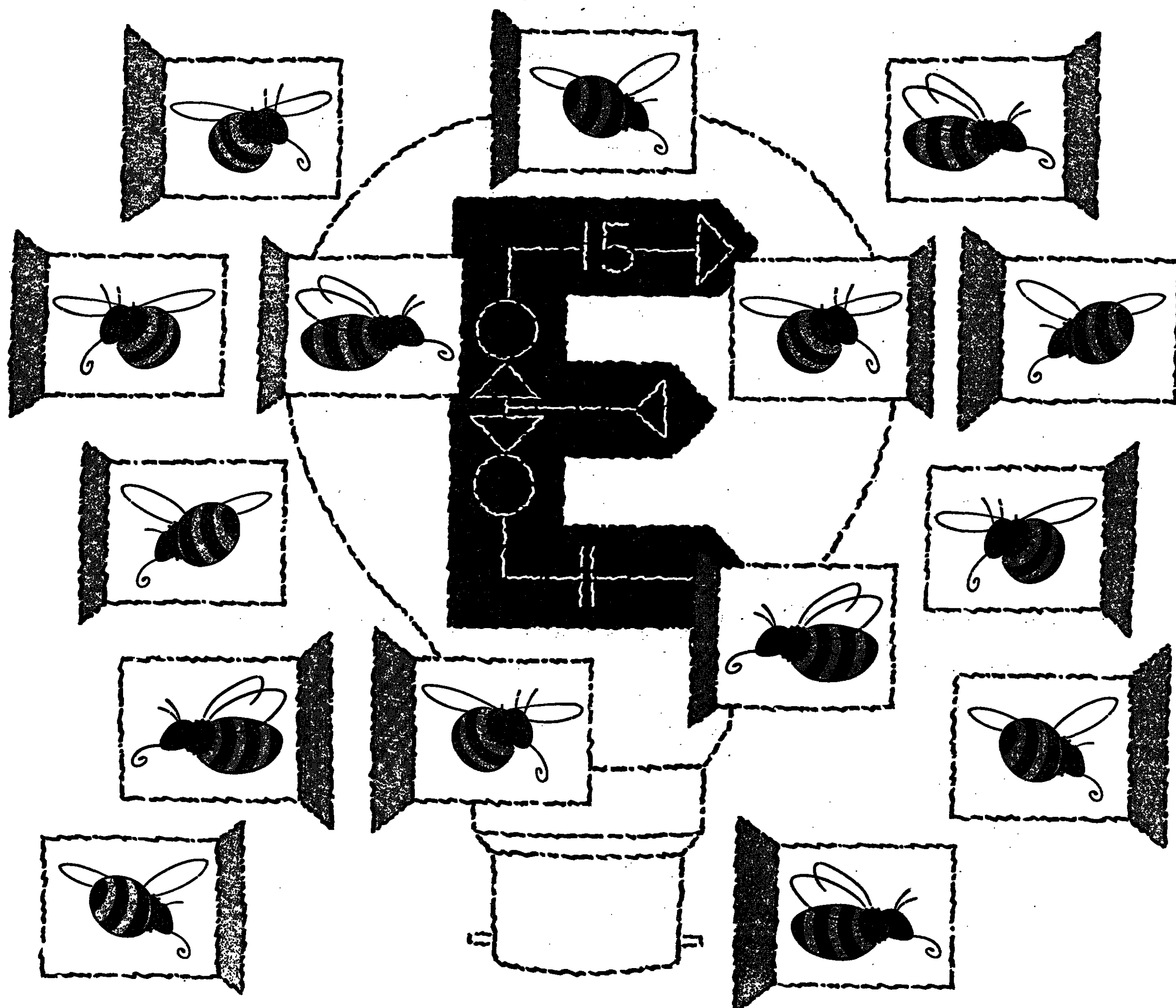
YOU GET A SMARTER INVESTOR AT THE ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

MINIMUM INVESTMENT £100 UP TO MAXIMUM INVESTMENT OF £250,000 WITHIN THE SOCIETY PER MEMBER. INTEREST WILL BE PAYABLE NET OF THE BASIC RATE OF INCOME TAX (WHICH MAY BE RECLAIMED BY NON-TAXPAYERS) OR, SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION, GROSS IF INTEREST IS PAID PRIOR TO 6 APRIL 1991 THEN INTEREST WILL BE PAID AS THE NET RATE. THE BASIC RATE TAX LIABILITY ON WHICH WILL BE DISCHARGED AND WHICH MAY NOT BE RECLAIMED. INTEREST RATES MAY VARY. INTEREST IS NORMALLY PAID ANNUALLY ON 1 JUNE. MONTHLY INCOME OPTION AVAILABLE ON SUMS OVER £2,500. WITHDRAWALS SUBJECT TO BRANCH LIMITS. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, 60 QUEEN'S ROAD, LONDON, W1M 0AB. LEICESTER LE1 4PP.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY

The interest bonus will be calculated at the interest rate prevailing on the applicable account and will be paid on the next interest payment date of the account in 1991. Electricity bill stamps will be sent to investors by post in March 1991 only if the account remains open on 1st March 1991. The minimum initial deposit of £500 for Instant Reserve is waived for this offer only and up until 1st January 1991. This offer is limited to one per customer. Full written details of the Instant Reserve account are available on request from National & Provincial Building Society, Provincial House, Bradford, BD1 1NL.

National & Provincial Building Society



OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE DISAPPOINTED: 15 DAYS' EXTRA INTEREST OR £10 OFF YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL.

Whoever you are, if you couldn't buy into what you plug into (or didn't get the stake you wanted), we'll make it up to you ... and how!

All you have to do is bring your share application refund cheque to any N&P branch before 1st January 1991.

The moment it reaches your existing

account with N&P, or an Instant Reserve account if you are a new customer, you qualify for a bonus of 15 days' extra interest.

Or, if you'd prefer, £10 worth of stamps towards your electricity bill in March 1991.

So, now there's no reason to lose interest.

Don't hesitate, make a beeline for your nearest National & Provincial Building Society

branch or call 0800 400 411 for the address.



No-one's busier on your behalf.

مكثا من الأصل

Ruthless repression threatens to replace face of humanity

EDUARD Shevardnadze was much the most civilised Soviet foreign minister since the second world war. He embodied and patronised the new thinking in Moscow which welcomed the end of the cold war and proclaimed the existence of universal standards of law and humanity underpinning international relations. His genial personality and skilful diplomacy went far to mask the sharp decline in Soviet power in the 1980s.

When Mr Shevardnadze became foreign minister in 1985, his earlier career seemed to hold little promise either of liberalism or diplomatic skill. Born in 1928, the son of a teacher, his contacts with the non-Soviet world had been limited. He had been a typical high-flyer in the Soviet party bureaucracy, and had worked in the Komsomol (Young Communist League) of his native Georgia, rising to be its head. In 1961, he became party boss of

one of Georgia's regions, before becoming Georgian minister of internal affairs (that is, police chief) in 1964.

He was in the post for eight years, during which he amassed evidence of the colossal corruption of Georgia's first secretary, V. P. Zhukovskiy, whom he replaced in 1972. Mr Shevardnadze remained boss of Georgia for 13 years, winning a reputation for honesty, toughness and interest in economic reform.

Since 1985 Mr Shevardnadze, together with Aleksandr Yakovlev, has been President Gorbachev's closest ally and one of the key figures on the liberal wing of the ruling elite. His resignation will probably represent the death-knell of the strategy pursued by Mr Gorbachev since 1987.

After creating a democratic movement and giving it bases in the parliaments (soviets) and press, the president has manoeuvred between these democratic

The departure from the Moscow foreign ministry of one of President Gorbachev's closest allies will probably mean the death knell of the Soviet leader's experiments with democracy and economic reform, Dominic Lieven writes

forces and conservative institutions such as the party, army, KGB, and industrial ministries.

Though brilliantly successful in the short run, this tactic is never easy to sustain. President Gorbachev's programme of controlled liberalisation released powerful currents which swept him into concessions (for example, the end of one-party rule) which he never intended to make.

The Soviet leadership was confronted with three crises: democratisation in a country with few democratic traditions; dismantling the world's deepest-rooted socialist economy; and decolonising the last great European

empire. The collapse of the economy and the threatened disintegration of the union made it impossible for Mr Gorbachev to continue his balancing act between left and right. In recent weeks, he has become more conservative, emphasising the impossibility of secession and his doubts about certain aspects of economic reform (for example, private property in land).

He has also argued — correctly — that political order and an end to jurisdictional disputes between centre and regions are prerequisites for economic recovery. The increasingly authoritarian tone in President Gorbachev's

speeches, not to mention those of the military leadership, suggest that an attempt will be made to secure this order by repression from Moscow.

Memories surface of martial law in Poland, and of the mass killings by Chinese troops in Tiananmen Square. But the Soviet Union is not a nation state like Poland or China: it is a multinational empire, with legitimate elected governments in its various republics, all of which would have to be overthrown or bypassed. Opposition is well organised.

The reliability of middle-ranking officers and a largely amateur

non-commissioned officer corps is not to be taken for granted, particularly in confrontations with the Russian and Ukrainian masses on the streets.

To succeed, repression would eventually have to be ruthless and bloody. If it were, the generals and KGB could probably secure control of all the main areas of the Soviet Union in the short run. In Russia itself, their ability to force some goods out of the black market might even win them temporary popularity.

The long-term price of repression would, however, probably be the complete and bloody disintegration of the empire.

Even those committed to holding the union together would be wiser to follow Boris Yeltsin's path of trying to create a voluntary and initially loose confederation of nations, in time increasingly bound together by mutual economic and security interests.

Mr Yeltsin's strategy, however, requires a genuinely post-imperial and post-socialist leadership in Moscow. Mr Gorbachev's mind is still imperial and socialist, as are to an even greater extent those of most of his generals. In a sense who can blame them, for how could military mentalities keep up with the Soviet Union's dramatic collapse from superpower status to disintegration in the course of only five peacetime years?

Mr Shevardnadze's resignation is a dramatic attempt to avert repression. Possibly it will scare and sober Mr Gorbachev. Certainly it will terrify Western leaders, for whom the prospect of dealing with an unstable dictatorship in Moscow amid growing confusion in Eastern Europe and the Gulf conflict is appalling.

Dominic Lieven is senior lecturer in Russian government at the London School of Economics.

AMERICA

Washington alarm over Gorbachev's vulnerability

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze, a principal architect of hugely improved super-power relations over the past five years, stunned Washington and left American officials deeply worried about the Soviet Union's future direction. The Bush administration has invested so much in seeing the success of President Gorbachev and Mr Shevardnadze that the foreign minister's departure at this critical time is seen as little short of a disaster.

The administration's biggest concern is that Mr Shevardnadze's resignation would further undermine President Gorbachev's precarious position, leaving the beleaguered Soviet leader still more vulnerable to headline conservatives who want draconian measures to restore order. A move against rebellious republics or opposition groups would be a serious setback for United States-Soviet relations.

The other serious worries are that Moscow's critical and hith-

erto robust support for the American stance in the Gulf could weaken under Mr Shevardnadze's successor, that efforts to conclude a strategic arms reduction treaty (Start) before February's Moscow summit could be jeopardised, and that Moscow's eagerness to resolve residual Cold War conflicts around the world, particularly in Afghanistan, could diminish, though American officials expressed qualified optimism on some of these counts.

The White House said it wanted the improving trend of United States-Soviet relations to continue. It expected the February summit to go ahead and hoped a treaty to reduce strategic nuclear weapons would be concluded in time for Presidents Bush and Gorbachev to sign it then.

Mr Shevardnadze and Mr James Baker, the secretary of state, had established an exceptionally close rapport over the past two years which undoubtedly helped smooth the way towards German reunification, the freeing of Eastern Europe and agreements to cut conventional forces in Europe and medium-range nuclear weapons.

One senior official said yesterday that Mr Shevardnadze's announcement had surprised the administration as much as it had Mr Gorbachev, and was a matter of "serious regret".

Even before Mr Shevardnadze's resignation, senior state department officials were concluding that Mr Gorbachev's days as a champion of reform were probably over and a period of repression was on the way. They said Mr Shevardnadze's resignation would probably accelerate the trend towards authoritarianism, but there was a slight chance it could act "like a splash of cold water" in Mr Gorbachev's face, giving him the opportunity to rally the reformist wing of the party.

Hitherto the administration has refrained from any action which could undermine Mr Gorbachev, but repression in, for example, the Baltic republics could force Washington to side openly with the secessionists. It would also render impossible further assistance such as the aid package announced by President Bush last week.

Because Mr Gorbachev himself had ordered the Soviet Union's generally robust support for United States policy in the Gulf, the administration expects that support to continue, but the official said that the possible appointment of Yevgeny Primakov, an ardent close ally of Mr Shevardnadze, would cause concern. Mr Primakov could press for a compromise solution.

The administration is hopeful that Mr Shevardnadze's resignation will not derail the Start treaty.

Grave warnings, page 12

BRITAIN

Anxiety at hardliners' emergence

By ANDREW McEWEEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE warning by Eduard Shevardnadze that the Soviet Union is moving towards dictatorship has underlined fears that the West has been suppressing for some time.

The British government and its Western partners have tried to avoid showing concern over the increasing influence of conservative communists and the military. Without Mr Shevardnadze's moderating influence it will be harder to ignore the trends.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said his main feeling was sadness but added: "On political grounds I think we all have to feel some concern at the reasons he gave, the explanation which he offered. It is too early to draw any definite conclusions, but we hope that the policies of reform which he supported will continue."

Britain gives Mr Shevardnadze much of the credit for the successful completion of a series of arms control treaties, and for Moscow's efforts to put pressure on President Saddam Hussein. His role in the unification of Germany was also substantial.

Late on Wednesday, a senior source disclosed that the government was troubled by indications that the Soviet military had not fully disclosed the size of its arsenal in an apparent attempt to circumvent the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

President Gorbachev's recent authoritarianism towards the Baltic republics has also caused worry. The source said that any use of undue force to prevent the republics leaving the union would force Britain to change its approach, cutting off the aid which the European Community decided in Rome to grant.

The first reaction in London to Mr Shevardnadze's resignation was hope that it was a tactical ploy, leading to a vote in the Congress of People's Deputies appealing to him to stay in office. However, the source said there was no sign that this was his intention.

The British view was that his speech should not be taken as an attack on Mr Gorbachev. Soviet foreign policy will not necessarily be changed deliberately, but might stagnate.

Whitehall was probably relieved that Britain had not yet signed a friendship agreement with the Soviet Union — although the text had been largely agreed — unlike Germany, Spain, and France.



Taking the strain: President Gorbachev bowing his head in the Congress of People's Deputies soon after Mr Shevardnadze's resignation

AROUND THE WORLD

Leaders express dismay and regret

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EUROPEAN nations, allied to both Nato and the Warsaw Pact, reacted yesterday with dismay to Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation.

In Germany leading politicians were dismayed and alarmed by the news. In the margins of the first session of the newly elected Bundestag in Berlin, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said the Soviet foreign minister's departure was a "dramatic step" adding: "I regret this very much." It was doubly important now, he said, to strengthen the Soviet reform process.

The chancellor said that Mr Shevardnadze had been very receptive to the development of Europe. His resignation had drawn attention to the dangers of what was happening inside the Soviet Union. "We can only hope that the reform process survives," he said. "It is good for the Soviet Union, for the relations between people and the development of Europe." He refused to speculate about whether President Gorbachev was now at risk.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, issued a statement saying: "If the Soviet foreign minister takes such a decision, this must be an occasion for everyone in the West to recognise the need to support even more the forces of reform there." He added that Mr Shevardnadze had been a friend, whose help in the unification of Germany had been crucial.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, the leader of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), said he hoped that the

resignation did not foreshadow a change in the external and security policy of the Soviet Union.

Count Otto Lambdorff, leader of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), said that Germans should thank the Soviet foreign minister for all he had done to help the process of unification. The party regretted the departure of "a statesman for peace".

Germany, which pressed last week's European summit in Rome to agree an aid package for the Soviet Union to help President Gorbachev's reforms survive, has so far sent DM 800 million (£280 million) worth of emergency supplies. This represents around 80 per cent of all that has been sent by

the international community so far.

In France, the government expressed "sadness" at Mr Shevardnadze's decision and hailed the "courage" of the Soviet foreign minister who did much to improve relations between Moscow and Paris.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, told reporters: "I hope this cry of alarm by Mr Shevardnadze will be heard ... (and that) this will serve as a warning to Western countries and all those who drag their feet on the aid that needs to be sent" to President Gorbachev.

M Dumas said he "experienced a feeling of sadness and regret at the resignation" and paid tribute to Mr Shevardnadze for having "played a big role in the rapprochement" between France and the Soviet Union, in the transformation of Eastern Europe and in the ending of the Cold War.

Hungary, the first east European Nation to break out of the Soviet sphere and to announce its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, expressed regret and sadness that Mr Shevardnadze, who was regarded as a firm supporter of Budapest's reform policies, was to step down.

A foreign ministry spokesman praised Mr Shevardnadze as a man of great integrity and vision who "could see the realities facing Europe as it nears the end of the century."

Tamas Katona, the secretary of state for foreign affairs, said that

although Mr Shevardnadze's presence would be sorely missed on the world stage he did not believe the scheduled withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary will be impaired by his departure.

He added however, that discussions on the dissolution of the military command of the Warsaw Pact, which Hungary would like to see scrapped by mid-1991 as a precondition for dismantling the entire military block, might be affected if right-wing or military forces gained strength in Moscow. In Czechoslovakia neither President Havel nor the Foreign Ministry would comment on the effects Mr Shevardnadze's resignation might have on the country.

Jan Petranek, a Soviet affairs specialist at the Prague newspaper Lidove Noviny said yesterday that Mr Shevardnadze's offer to step down was a tactical move designed to force Mr Gorbachev to make a stand as a reformer and stop hesitating.

In Poland, the government reacted with concern to the resignation announcement and expressed concern that the move could herald a return to the conservatism of the pre-Gorbachev era. The Foreign Ministry, with unusual caution, repeatedly refused to comment on the implications of the decision.

The view from Japan was that Mr Shevardnadze's genial manner had done much to thaw some of the iciness that still exists between Tokyo and Moscow.



Kohl: need to strengthen Soviet reform process

Principled departure stuns Kremlin-watchers

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK

Nothing demonstrates more than the manner which Eduard Shevardnadze chose to relinquish office. Resigning on principle is something that politicians in the West do only in the most extreme of circumstances. In the United States such an act is so rare that commentators yesterday had trouble recalling the last instance. But for the Soviet Union, such a gesture by a figure at the pinnacle of power is unprecedented. To do it, as Mr Shevardnadze did, on television under the eyes of the nation, simply took the breath away yesterday from what used to be known as the Kremlinological world. The behind-the-scenes drama which produced Boris

Yeltsin's politburo resignation in 1987 does not count since he was clearly on the losing side.

Even searching back to the earliest days of the Bolshevik revolution, scholars could not find any case of a high-ranking Kremlin official stepping down over principle. "Nobody ever voluntarily resigned," said Marshall Shulman, emeritus professor of international relations at Columbia University and one of the world's leading Soviet experts. Two famous resignations — that of Nikolai Bukharin, the Bolshevik theoretician and commissar in 1929, and Georgy Malenkov, who resigned as prime minister in 1955, stemmed from power struggles, he noted. Bukharin was later executed by Stalin.

Things have, of course, changed a lot since Stalin's days when the merest policy contretemps could mean a quick trip to the grave-

yard, or forced labour in Siberia, but departure has usually implied disgrace or at least the oblivion of non-personhood. From Nikita Khrushchev's removal in 1964 to Andrei Gromyko's "retirement" from the presidency in 1988, there were certain rules to be followed in the interest of the party, state and personal health. Gromyko, the consummate Kremlin servant who was pushed out of his seemingly permanent foreign minister's job to make way for Mr Shevardnadze in 1986, once summed up the old rules: "You know how it is around here. It's a bit like the Bermuda Triangle. Every now and then one of us disappears."

Since Stalin's death in 1953 and the execution of Lavrenti Beria, the secret police chief, and a handful of the dictator's other henchmen, top Soviet officials have retreated into the comfort-

able obscurity of a party pension. More often than not, this meant setting up home in a well-guarded Moscow flat or behind the high walls of a dacha in the birch forests off Moscow's southwestern suburbs. Even a few of Stalin's retirees survived in retirement into the Gorbachev years, notably Vyacheslav Molotov, his long-serving foreign minister who died after pre-posthumous rehabilitation in 1986.

The party is still said to be caring for Lazar Kaganovich, aged 97 who was Stalin's industrial commissar and one of his lieutenants in crime. Even most of Leonid Brezhnev's now discredited comrades went on to lives of privileged retirement.

Professor Shulman said he expects Mr Shevardnadze to observe the traditions and depart from the stage. His dramatic resignation

was testimony to the current disintegration of Soviet political life, as well as to Mr Shevardnadze's passionate, emotional character, he said.

Under the old rules, leaving office voluntarily was so unpalatable an option that any self-respecting member of the elite clung on until forced out by death or his colleagues. Removal followed a well-worn ritual that, among other things, provided a good living for the army of Western Sovietologists who were always called on to penetrate the mysteries of Kremlin power play. Sometimes, the official in question was simply absent from his usual spot in a welcoming ceremony or on the Lenin Mausoleum for one of the parades. More often, word of a Kremlin redundancy came at the bottom of a Central Committee communiqué headed "Organisational Matters".

NATO

Fears for future of European forces treaty

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO fears among Western defence officials were immediately raised by the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze and his warnings of imminent dictatorship in the Soviet Union: that the recently signed Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty would not be ratified, and that President Saddam Hussein might be able to take advantage of political turmoil in Moscow.

A number of scenarios were being studied at high official level yesterday, all of which put in some doubt the carefully laid plans by East and West to forge closer links.

One senior British official admitted that the resignation of such a well-respected Soviet statesman had come at the worst possible time, with the West "uncovered" in Europe's central front because of the exodus of troops, tanks, artillery and aircraft from Germany to the Gulf, and with the need to keep the Soviet Union firmly inside the international coalition against Iraq.

The official said: "It is possible that if President Gorbachev were to resign, his replacement might be a figure from the old order who would be anti-West. But there is no reason to suppose that such a leader would be interested in aggression against the West, even under the old argument of pursuing externalisation (a foreign venture) to cover up domestic problems. We don't think that will happen. It's more likely that a new leader from the right would be more interested in sorting out law and order in the Soviet Union and would see the sense in having a benevolent West."

The official pointed out that on the "good side", the Soviet military was being moving large numbers of tanks and artillery east of the Urals in recent months. Soviet troops and equipment were also leaving Czechoslovakia and Hungary. "So we may have been moving stuff out of Germany to go to the Gulf, but the Soviets have been doing the same by removing so much equipment out of the central area of Europe," he said.

While the possibility of an anti-Western Soviet leader emerging was being discussed in Whitehall yesterday, the more pressing concern was over the future of the CFE treaty and the Gulf.

Officials said that the Soviet military were already attempting to circumvent the treaty by switching equipment from the army to the navy and by failing to provide truthful figures of armour deployed in the Soviet Union west of the Urals. "We have to face the possibility that the treaty will not be ratified," one official said, "in which case the Soviet general staff could bring back all the equipment they have sent east of the Urals. But I don't think this would mean another arms race."

He added: "What is also of concern is that Saddam Hussein might feel he can see a chink in the coalition. We need the Soviet Union to be solidly behind us in facing up to Iraq."

However, officials at Nato's supreme headquarters allied powers Europe, in Casteau, Belgium, said that even with the Soviet Union facing growing instability, no-one imagined that the West would face military aggression.

General John Galvin, supreme allied commander Europe, said yesterday: "All of us in the West want to see the Soviet people continue on a track that will lead to full democracy, free enterprise and respect for human rights. But this has to be done in a way that maintains order without sacrificing democratic principles."

Manfred Wörner, Nato secretary-general, said he hoped the turbulence in the Soviet Union would not put at risk the development of full democracy, freedom and human rights. "During his term of office, Mr Shevardnadze made a decisive personal contribution to overcome the Cold War and to embark on an era of peace and co-operation in Europe," he said.

De Klerk poised to scrap legislation on residential apartheid

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa is planning to introduce legislation early in the new year which will remove two of the three remaining pillars of apartheid, and pave the way for negotiations on a new constitution.

Government sources said yesterday that preliminary drafts of a bill repealing the Group Areas Act and the land acts, which segregate residential areas and reserve 87 per cent of the land for whites, have been completed, and will be presented to the cabinet in mid-January.

Mr de Klerk is expected to announce details of the reforms at the opening of parliament in Cape Town on February 1. The last apartheid law to go will be the Population Registration Act, which classifies race at birth. Mr de Klerk has pledged that it will be amended during constitutional negotiations. Also destined to go is the Free Settlement Areas Act of 1989, a clumsy attempt to compromise between segregationist right-wing whites and the desire to remove race as a criterion for residence.

The sources said hundreds of provincial and local government ordinances, based on apartheid legislation, would have to be repealed or amended next year. They said the "own affairs" concept, which segregates local authority activities, would be discussed in the negotiations. Until a settlement is reached, group area boundaries would remain in place and local authorities would continue to be racially based.

The land acts of 1913 and 1936 would retain recognition of tribal lands for the time being, protecting them from acquisition by white speculators. The reforms are unlikely to have an immediately noticeable effect, since only a tiny proportion of blacks have the capital to buy land or property in relatively affluent white areas.

The problems of implementing reforms were highlighted this week by a survey of medical services by researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand, which found that little had changed since the government opened hospitals to all races in May.

The report said many public hospitals had racially separate wards, different entrances, and segregated X-ray and operating theatre facilities. Most continued to serve only one population group, because of their location.

The right-wing municipality of Bethal, in the eastern Transvaal, has demonstrated the lengths to which some communities will go to keep their facilities segregated. The municipality filed a public swimming pool with sand after claiming that blacks had swum naked there.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the local foreign correspondents' association, John Battersby, said yesterday that journalists were increasingly facing death threats while working in the black townships, and it was only a matter of time before one was killed. Mr Battersby said a television cameraman and a photographer were threatened in Thokoza township this week. It is believed that the aggressors were members of the Inkatha Freedom Party, which is led by the Zulu chief, Mangosuthu Buthelezi.



Delighted by the challenge: Sadako Ogata yesterday

Japanese don accepts UN refugee role

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

SADAKO Ogata, the Japanese university professor who is expected to be officially approved today as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, says she is too busy tying up academic matters before the term ends to think too much about her new job.

She said: "I am delighted and honoured to serve as UN high commissioner. I received a phone call this morning from the secretary-general of the UN, Javier Pérez de Cuellar. He said: 'Why don't you work with me?', and I replied, 'I would like to help'."

Mrs Ogata is the first woman to take over the helm of one of the UN's main agencies and one of the few Japanese in a prominent role in a world body. "I'm delighted with the challenge," she said in Tokyo. "I'd like to see more and more Japanese coming up. We started out late, especially in the UN."

It takes time to get established."

Mrs Ogata is aged 63 and the dean of the faculty of foreign studies at Sophia University in Tokyo. She is internationally minded and is being courted by the ruling Liberal Democrats to run for parliament.

She is no newcomer to the United Nations. She recently returned from Burma, where she investigated alleged human rights abuses for the UN Commission on Human Rights. She was Japan's representative on the commission from 1982 to 1985. She has also been chairwoman of the executive board of Unicef, the UN children's fund, and served as minister at Japan's UN mission from 1976 to 1978.

Her new job charges her with protecting the world's 15 million refugees. She said yesterday that it was too early to say what her priority would be.

Tokyo on brink of new scandal over MP's shares

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN was wobbling near the edge of another embarrassing political scandal yesterday as public prosecutors prepared to charge a prominent ruling party politician and former cabinet minister for tax evasion.

Toshiyuki Inamura, an MP in Japan's lower house, is alleged to have concealed from the taxman about £11 million in profits from share deals. News programmes last night reported that Mr Inamura, whose home and office were raided by public prosecutors and was interrogated yesterday. They said Mr Inamura was expected to be charged next week.

Japanese press reports allege that Mr Inamura bought and sold shares on the advice

of Mitsuhiro Kotani, a share speculator who was recently arrested on charges of stock market manipulation.

Mr Inamura's case came to light after he filed an amended tax return, saying he had made an omission in the original.

The colourful Mr Kotani is proving something of a headache for his former friends and associates, who include Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister. The chairman of Sumitomo bank, one of Japan's biggest, recently stepped down to take responsibility for illegal loans made by a former branch manager to Mr Kotani's speculation group. An aide to Mr Nakasone, in whose cabinet Mr Inamura served as environment minister, is reported to have made 120 million yen (£461,000) from trading in the shares of a company which Mr Kotani took over.

The Asahi newspaper, which led the press in exposing last year's Recruit bribery scandal, said in an editorial that "the authorities should probe this case thoroughly."

The drama unfolding around Mr Inamura has thrown another unflattering spotlight on Japan's money-soaked politics. The MPs and cabinet ministers who made windfall profits in the Recruit scandal



Nakasone: Inamura was his environment minister by accepting cut-price shares in the information group, argued that the cash was not going into their own pockets.

They protested that politics, like everything else in Japan, was expensive. Japanese MPs are expected to send gifts to constituents' weddings and to pay hotel bills when constituents visit them in Tokyo.

But despite the breast-beating that followed the Recruit affair, which brought down the administration of Noboru Takeshita, little seems to have changed in the Japanese political world.

Leaders of the main factions which make up the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are in the middle of handing out more than £4 million to their faction members as new year gifts. Ostensibly the money is to buy rice cakes, a traditional end-of-year delicacy. In reality it will be spent on supporting LDP-backed candidates in mayoral elections in April.

Mr Takeshita, playing Santa Claus, has just handed out three million yen each to more than 100 of his followers. Shinzō Abe, who would like to be Japan's next prime minister, has matched Mr Takeshita's generosity for about 90 of his followers.

In between signing the cheques, LDP leaders are thrashing out ideas for "political reform", a package they promise voters will clean up Japanese money politics once and for all.

Defence spending curbed

By JOE JOSEPH

TOKYO, bowing a little to the West's new warmth towards the East and to Washington's hints that Japan should shoulder more of the burden of being a superpower, is slowing down its defence spending for the first time in more than a decade, while boosting its share of the costs of American bases.

Even so, Japan will remain the world's third-biggest defence spender after the United States and the Soviet Union, with about 247,000 men and women in uniform. This is perhaps a peculiar position for a country whose constitution renounces war and, some say, bans the formation of any kind of army. Japan might have felt more awkward still had it unveiled big defence programmes only weeks after parliament failed to pass a bill to send a small contingent of non-combat troops to help its allies in the Gulf.

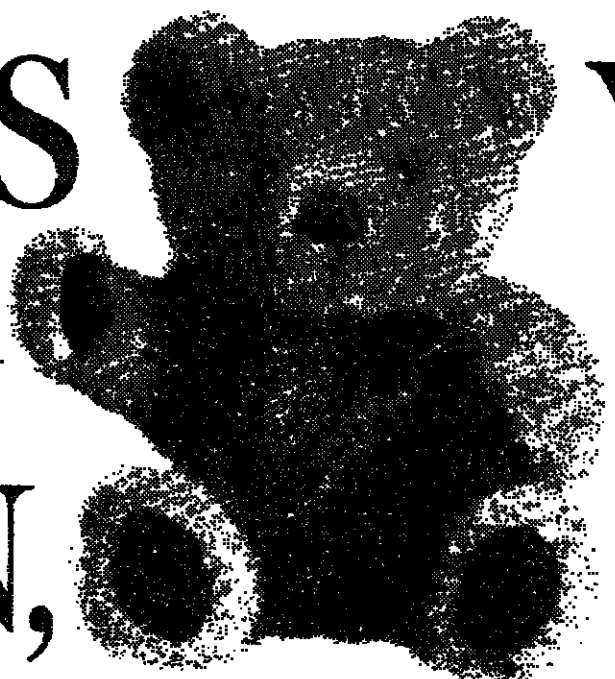
Misao Sakamoto, the chief cabinet secretary, said yesterday that Japan would limit annual increases in defence spending to 2.93 per cent over the next five years, half of the average growth in the defence budget over the past 15 years, when the "Soviet threat" gave defence priority over public works, education and welfare budgets.

It is also likely that defence spending will slip back below 1 per cent of gross national product, an unofficial ceiling abandoned in 1987 by Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister, who felt that the time had come for Japan to be less prissy about strengthening its military muscle.

Mr Sakamoto said defence spending in the 1991-5 period would not top 22,750 billion yen (£88 billion) in all. That total might be adjusted downward after three years if, as anticipated, tensions in Asia relax further.

Japan also announced it would step up its contribution towards the cost of keeping 40,000 American troops stationed in Japan from about 40 per cent now to 50 per cent after five years. Japan's current annual bill of 440 billion yen will gradually rise to 530 billion yen by 1995.

WITH UP TO 50% OFF MANY habitat CHRISTMAS GIFTS, WHEN YOU SEE THE PRICES YOU'LL NEED TO SIT DOWN, WE'VE KNOCKED 10% OFF ALL FURNITURE TOO.



Large jointed bear was £22.99 now £11.40

SO

REDUCTIONS on selected Christmas merchandise apply while stocks last. The biggest-ever Habitat WINTER SALE starts on Boxing Day at stores marked* below, (check store for opening times), and on 27th December in all our stores.

habitat

BATH BIRMINGHAM BOURNEMOUTH BRIGHTON BRISTOL BROMLEY CAMBRIDGE CANTERBURY CARDIFF* CHELMSFORD CHELTENHAM* CHESTER CROYDON* DARLSTON* EDINBURGH* EXETER GLASGOW* GUILDFORD HARROGATE HATFIELD* IPSWICH KINGSTON LEICESTER* LONDON (NW3, W6, SW3, W1*) MAIDENHEAD* MANCHESTER MILTON KEYNES NORWICH OXFORD* SOLIHULL* SOUTHAMPTON TUNBRIDGE WELLS WALLINGFORD WORCESTER WYTHENSHAW* YORK

مكتبة من الأصل

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED, A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY.

Eating books is bad for you

Philip Howard

Food is an important part of a balanced diet. But we are in some danger of turning it into a secular religion. We are a generation of foodies and health-nutters. Forests are cut down daily to produce the paper for acres of newspaper and containers full of 'diet' books about eating. Illustrated with colour pictures of grub meant to look enticing, but having an emetic effect on me, J.M. Barrie sat next to Bernard Shaw at a dinner party. Aggressive vegetarian Shaw was served with a nouvelle cuisine dish of assorted, waxy greenery, decorated no doubt with kiwi fruit and diced peppers. Looking at the nasty mess, Barrie whispered to Shaw: "Tell me, have you already eaten that, or are you going to?"

The thing to do with food is cook it (a touch of oregano in the omelette, I think), eat it, enjoy it, and then shut up about it. Do not write or talk about food. Writing and talking about food are a bore. I do not want the chef or the patron or the waiter to read the menu out loud to me, with fatuously drooling and hyperbolic foodie epithets, as though I were a greedy and backward child. When it comes to menus, hold the adjectives. They never do, though. Crispy, fluffy popcorn (as opposed to the soggy, matted sort), fresh Maine lobster (as opposed to rotten), and juicy tiger prawns (rather than the dreaded 'nasty cat ones'), blended with a julienne of crispy vegetables.

That patronising nursery epithet, *crispy*, sums up the nonsense of foodpeak. Cooking and eating are not fine arts. Writing about them is absurdly high-flown and liturgical; and when you look at it, almost always rubbish. Nobody can be bothered to read the rubbish, so nobody notices. One of the few people to have written intelligently and without pomposity about food, the great Elizabeth David, is puzzled about *crispy*. What does it say more than *crispy*? In any case, why do you need to say it about something that is meant to be crisp when properly cooked? Surely it goes without saying? Even B. Levin the other day wrote about "a button of monkfish on a crispy bed". A crispy bed of what, dear boy? And why say *crispy*? For heavens sake don't tell him, but Bernard on food turns me off eating for a day and a half.

Television cookery demonstrations (a breed of modern pests who need an angry Juvenal to fry them) in *crispy* epithets have a vocabulary of only 20 words, of which 19 are *crispy*, and six are *crispy*. I suppose we have to excuse the dreaded Anton Mosimann, since he is Swiss, and cannot speak English. But do we have to put up with this constant babble of yumm-yum, foody argot: nutty, crunchy, fizzy, bacon, spiky, rouille (if it ain't spicy, it ain't

rouille, chum), crunchy vegetables, fluffy this and fluffy that, sticky perfection, "crunchy fresh wild mushrooms"? Is that last foodie intonation not a contradiction rather than an oily tautology? When have mushrooms, either wild or tame, ever been crunchy? OK, I will concede that the butter or breadcrumb coating the mushrooms, with a whisper of garlic, might conceivably be crunchy. In the context, I would have expected the all-purpose infantile word, *crispy*. Croque-monsieur, the French sandwich of Gruyère cheese and ham in thin white bread, with the crust cut off, dipped in egg and fried, was translated as "crispy gentleman" in a women's mag the other day. Whence and wherefore this *crispy*? I think we should be told.

It is in fact an older word in the English lexicon than you would have supposed. It has been with us since the 14th century, meaning curly or wavy, of the hair, a direct borrowing from the Latin *crispus*. For example, here is John of Trevisa from Cornwall, fellow of Exeter and the Queen's College, Oxford, who was sent down for unspecified "unworthiness", I suppose idle spelling: "By grete heete the heer of the berd and of the heed ben crispy and curlyd." Three centuries later, a secondary meaning of brittle or "short" in a pastrycook's jargon came in: "The crispy marmalade that remain of fried hogs grease." I suspect that these were the original pork scratchings, revolting tooth-filling-breakers. And there the word *crispy* remained until the arrival of Chinese restaurants over the land, after the last war. They also serve, who only stand and wait, even up in darkest Ayrshire, dishing out the carry-overs of chow mein, sweet and sour pork, and crispy noodles, and watching the Scotch mist drenching in from Goat Fell, with the stoical resignation of the Roman legionaries 20 centuries before them. Hellhole and pits of the universe, no doubt, but at least the noodles are *crispy*. And that, I suspect, is how *crispy* came into the revolting and embarrassing jargon of foodpeak.

I do not know what we can do about it. Very few people write well about food. Brilliant Savarin, maybe. Elizabeth David, certainly. I confess to a taste for Jonathan Meades, because he tends to slag off unsatisfactory restaurants with a windy rhetoric that other men reserve for more important matters. Let us stick to plain cooking, and avoid poetry, when forced to write or read about food. As Miss Piggy said on *artichokes*: "These things are just plain annoying. After all the trouble you go to, you get about as much actual food out of eating an artichoke as you would from licking 30 or 40 postage stamps. Have the shrimp and avocado cocktail instead." And for Falstaff's sake, don't describe it as *crispy*.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Once upon a time, when Fleet Street was a metonym, I drove to it every working day. Which meant that every working day — since the route from Cricklewood to Solihull required me to turn from Holborn into New Fetter Lane — I spent some time at the Holborn Circus traffic lights, looking up at the buttocks of Prince Albert's horse.

Quite why this singularly unglamorous spot should have been chosen for the great consort's memorial I have never known (though no circus, of course, is complete without an equestrian German), but what I have always known, as the result of all this right-hand-filtering, is his dates. Because chiselled on the big granite obelisk thing beneath — let us, since it is the cracker season, call it *Plinth Albert* — are the numbers 1819-1861. Only 42. How came it, I would daily muse, that a fellow so sturdy and energetic (nine children and a major exhibition) should so feebly have succumbed to an exhalation from the Windsor drains? And only now I am convinced I have the clue: the clue lies in that selfsame cracker season, and the conviction lies in the conviction I risked on Wednesday for driving without due care and attention, to wit, having a dangerously uncontrollable passenger in the seat beside me.

But for Prince Albert, that passenger would have been in Norway. Albert's consuming ambition, as you know, was to commend himself to the English that they would content him as their own. Not content to enjoy the unbridled passion merely of England's top banana, he sought also the adoration of her subjects. It was to this end that he imported the Christmas tree: so that, every year, the English could dance around it, breathing in its salutary needle-waft, exclaiming at its twinkling lights, clapping their hands at each spinning glass ball, cheering the topping-out of the fairy, and generally praising the name of the great benefactor.

But things did not work out that way. Instead, every year from 1841 onwards, the English stared glumly at it, wondering why its needles fell out as soon as they brought it indoors, cursing its lights for stopping

twinkling the instant they stepped back to admire them, bandaging their hands at each shattered glass ball, swearing at one another for not remembering where they put the fairy last year, and generally calamitiating the name of the great benefactor. Clearly, after 20 years of this, Albert's annually deepening disillusion had brought him to such a low ebb that, when the offending man-hole cover was lifted, he no longer had the wherewithal to resist its miasma.

Now, until Wednesday, I had thought I had taken everything a Christmas tree could throw at me. I had believed, in short, that Prince Albert had no nasty surprises left. This was because I had never before bought a 10ft Norwegian pine at Camden Market. Too long to sit in the back seat with its head out of the window, it demanded that I take the hood down so that it could sit in front with the driver. For a time, all went well: if you ignored the hue, it was not unlike whizzing along with Isadora Duncan beside you, a big feathery thing, her tresses blowing in the slipstream, her aeolian surrurations fetchingly redolent of a wanton's murmured promises, and the evening being crisp but not chill, I was much enjoying this, until Isadora's stays burst.

Which is to say that, on Haverstock Hill, the string restraining her limbs suddenly snapped, and, as if unable any longer to contain her vegetable lust, Isadora was all over me: so that, not merely lashed and stung by needles, I found I could see forwards only by leaning sideways. Nevertheless, I managed, until the Panda flagged me down.

They were very good about not being in proper control of a vehicle. It was, after all, Christmas. They even had string. They rebound the tree. Only then did they notice the absence of a tax disc. We all looked at the space where it had been before, almost certainly, Isadora's outflung limb had defenestrated it. Sorry, they said, nothing we can do. Produce your documents within seven days. It's no good blaming the tree.

It's not the tree I blame, I said.

Mary Dejevsky on the dark shadow cast on Soviet reform by Shevardnadze's resignation

A grave warning to Gorbachev

When was the last time a Soviet foreign minister's resignation caused the stock markets to fall worldwide? When, indeed, was the last time that a Soviet foreign minister resigned without being pushed? That Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday accomplished both testifies to the transformation of Soviet foreign policy during his tenure at the foreign ministry and of Soviet domestic politics since Mikhail Gorbachev came to power.

Mr Shevardnadze was always a Soviet foreign minister of a different stamp. That was his virtue; it was also the reason, at the last, for his resignation in a Soviet Union which has not changed as fast or as substantially as its foreign policy.

There should have been little surprise at the fact of his resignation. Mr Gorbachev's Nobel peace prize seemed a fitting conclusion to the revolution in Soviet foreign policy over which he had presided. There was a sense in which his work was done.

Mr Shevardnadze, at Mr Gorbachev's behest, brought the Soviet troops out of Afghanistan. He disengaged the Soviet Union

from expensive regional conflicts. He presided over the effective liberation of Eastern Europe and gave his blessing to the unification of Germany. As his last contribution to ending the cold war, he joined the Soviet leadership in Western condemnation of Iraq, so eliminating more than four decades of discord at the UN.

Mr Shevardnadze accompanied these moves with a personal charm and conviction quite unlike the cool detachment of his predecessor, Andrei Gromyko. His genial smile and grandfatherly visage became the new face of the Soviet Union abroad. He had the grace to admit domination of Eastern Europe required an apology. Elegantly, he wished the united German people well as he signed away Soviet rights under the Four-Power Agreement.

While the fact of Mr Shevardnadze's departure was timely and of a piece with projected changes at the apex of Soviet power, the manner of his leaving was not. Mr Shevardnadze deliberately chose the most public of forums to announce his resignation. His departure, as Mr Gorbachev understood, was for

the Soviet public and for the world. It was eloquent warning of danger ahead.

Mr Gorbachev's angry outburst at the foreign minister who had, in his view, deserted him in his hour of need ended an alliance which brought the Soviet Union untold benefits abroad. It also benefited the president personally. Only last month he told a meeting of cultural figures how he and Mr Shevardnadze had plotted the course of the new Soviet Union before either had attained supreme power.

His account of how they had vouchsafed to each other the need for radical change, at a time when there were risks in articulating such thoughts at all, seemed intended to prepare the Soviet public for a time when they would lead the country as president and vice-president. Mr Shevardnadze had also been mentioned as a possible prime minister.

But his mooted candidacy for promotion was sufficient for the enemies of change to target him as their victim. Moscow's support for Washington against Iraq was the pretext. Sections of the military and Soviet opinion had been

shocked that Moscow had deserted an old and loyal ally. They complained in private that the Soviet Union would in future be excluded from the Middle East, that Moscow was now a handmaiden of Washington.

These complaints were only a code, however, for the accumulated objections to the whole of Gorbachev's policy. The blame for "losing" Eastern Europe, for abandoning the Third World and quitting the "ideological struggle" were heaped at Mr Shevardnadze's door. So was the blame for "weakening Soviet defences" and "loosening up" Soviet society to the point where it might emulate Eastern Europe and set out for a non-communist future.

In the face of this unremitting campaign against him, and against perestroika — Mr Shevardnadze conceded defeat. Implicitly, he also blamed Mr Gorbachev for not rebutting the charges.

This is not the first time that the president has failed to support a close ally; nor is it the first time he has been angered by what he sees as disloyalty in a colleague. Three years ago, he abandoned Boris Yeltsin, his personal appointee as

Communist party leader in Moscow, when the going against entrenched interests became too rough. Last month he dropped his interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, when he was blamed for declining social discipline.

Each time Mr Gorbachev has acted, as he sees it, in the interests of maintaining consensus and keeping the country united behind change. Each time, however, his leadership has been divided and weakened. With the loss of Mr Shevardnadze it will be more divided and damaged than before.

Mr Shevardnadze's departure has implications that reach beyond the strength and survival of Mr Gorbachev and extend to the new East-West stability. Mr Gorbachev may have vouchsafed Soviet credit-worthiness in the West, but it was Shevardnadze who symbolised Soviet openness to the world. Shevardnadze who underwrote the liberation of Eastern Europe and Shevardnadze who stood beside James Baker and condemned Iraq. His departure leaves the world, as well as the Soviet Union, without certainty and the stockmarkets should not be alone in their worries.

Is ERM the spectre that will haunt Major out of power?

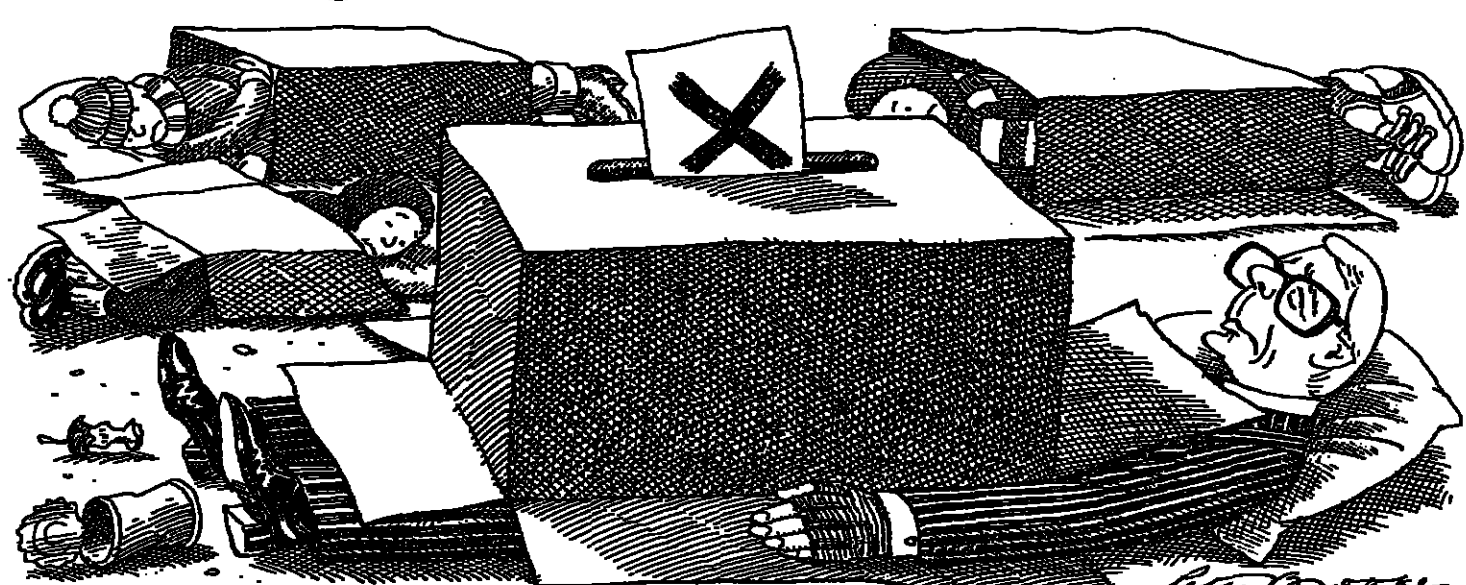
Host with his own petard could be the political epitaph for John Major, if one is needed after the next general election. With the economy sliding into a deep recession, his Chancellor, Norman Lamont, has postponed a cut in interest rates that the City had confidently expected before Christmas. The cut would have been amply justified by all the usual economic indicators such as inflation, production, employment and domestic money supply. But having convinced Mrs Thatcher to join the European exchange-rate mechanism in October, probably against her better judgment, Mr Major and Mr Lamont now find that their hands are tied.

From now on, British interest rates have to be set not to stabilise the economy, but to soothe sentiment among foreign exchange traders and to settle old scores over the costs of German unification between the Bundesbank and the Bonn government.

Mr Lamont has also boxed himself in on fiscal policy, ruling out any "artificial" stimulus for the economy through tax cuts or higher public spending. And even if he is not taken at his pugnacious word on this point, the ERM constraint could turn a "generous" Budget in April into a mirage as surely as it did this month's cut in interest rates. Experience in France, Italy and other ERM member countries suggests that currency markets are almost as inclined to punish generous budgets as "prudent" cuts in interest rates.

Two questions follow. Will the economy recover spontaneously, without special help from government policy? And, if so, will the recovery come soon enough to win the Conservatives the next general election?

For a government facing an 18-month election deadline, timing is of the essence, and the prospects are not good. It is increasingly accepted in the Conservative party that the next election will have to take place in, or soon after, a recession. Even if production has turned up by the middle of next year, unemployment, normally lags nine to 12 months behind, and will probably still be rising well into 1992. The question is there-



Anatol Kaletsky, Economics Editor, on the self-imposed limitation acting against an early economic upturn

fore whether the government can win an election with unemployment between 2 and 2.5 million and rising.

Conservative strategists take some comfort from the 1983 election. Although it was held two years after the "end" of the 1979-81 recession, as technically defined by economists, the depth of that slump had been such that unemployment was still rising rapidly: the first headlines about "three million unemployed" were seen just months before the election. The government was re-elected with a landslide. The magnitude of victory could be explained largely by the Falklands factor and the disarray of the opposition parties. But the fact remains that the government's standing in the opinion polls was already improving in early 1982, before anyone had ever heard of General Galtieri, and at a time when few people believed that economic recovery was in store.

Partly because of the way the government sailed through the 1982 unemployment crisis, many political analysts have come to the conclusion that interest rates and inflation are much more important in determining electoral support. However, statistical tests

give ambiguous evidence. Models which combine the rate of change of unemployment with other variables such as inflation, interest rates and disposable income seem to give the best predictive results.

But all such models beg the most crucial questions. This will be the second episode of mass unemployment under the Tory government. The slump of the 1980s was seen as the penalty the country had to pay for the social chaos and political mismanagement of the 1970s. Will the public be as forgiving of the government the second time round? In the early 1980s, the three million unemployed were concentrated in the depressed industrial regions, which had always been Labour strongholds. In the Tory heartlands of the South East, the South West and East Anglia, unemployment never exceeded 9 per cent, compared with 13.5 per cent in the North. Will the Conservatives lose more votes now that the slump is hitting their supporters?

Such questions can be answered only with hindsight. But what can be said for certain is that, unless the economy starts to recover soon, the year ahead for the government will be one of extreme political risks.

The Chancellor, backed by his Treasury officials, believes that the slump will end "automatically" around the spring of next year, even without an abrupt easing of monetary or fiscal policy.

If they based their belief on the traditional stabilisers like stockbuilding and housing investment, they would almost certainly be disappointed. Neither of these is likely to prove strong enough for many months ahead to overcome the powerful deflationary forces acting on today's economy: the unprecedented levels of debt; the record bankruptcies and business failures; the difficulties imposed by the high exchange rate on exporters; the deteriorating conditions in overseas economies, above all in America.

The government does have another factor working to its advantage, although it is not one of which it wishes to boast. The high level of pay settlements in the present round, accompanied by the steep fall of inflation certain next year, should guarantee large increases in real income for the majority of workers who do not lose their jobs.

By the middle of next year, if average wages are still growing by

10 per cent or so and price inflation is down to 6 per cent, consumer spending could start reviving sharply. Because consumer spending accounts for 79 per cent of gross domestic product, even the modest growth of 2 per cent annually predicted by the Treasury in its autumn forecast might be enough to mitigate the slump by the middle of next year.

Ironically, therefore, the failure of the government's exhortations to restrain wages could offer the best hope for a recovery from recession in the short run. But this would be a hope fraught with dangers. Given the unexpected speed with which unemployment is rising, it is by no means certain that higher wages for people in work will compensate, in the aggregate, for income losses suffered by the jobless. More seriously in the long run, rising real wages would exacerbate the competitive problems faced by British industry as a result of the high exchange rate. On top of this, growing consumer spending would suck in imports, aggravating the country's balance of payments problems and undermining confidence in the pound.

If this is the kind of recovery the government is banking on, it may have to defend sterling with a sharp rise in interest rates just before the next general election. Wherever he looks, Mr Major will see the ERM.

Russia hangs on by its toggles

What reconciling, guiding spirit can come to the rescue of the Soviet Union and save it from disintegration? With Lenin in ideological limbo, Stalin in outer darkness, and a return by the tsars looking improbable (so far), step forward the spirit of Sir Robert Baden-Powell. As the empire falls apart, the founder of scouting and hero of Mafeking is emerging as the unlikely role model of Soviet youth.

Until glasnost made it freely available three years ago, B-P's *Scouting for Boys* was near the top of the list of subversive literature. As recently as the Seventies a Soviet encyclopaedia defined scouting as a movement seeking "to move the younger generation away from taking part in the fight for revolutionary and democratic transformations".

Now, it seems, everyone wants to claim for his own the Baden-Powell ethos of duty to one's

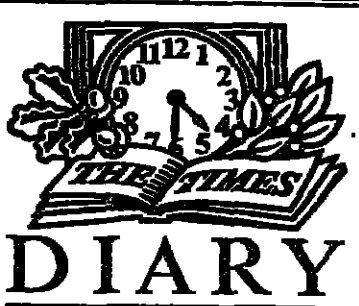
country and helping old ladies across the *ulitsa*. Vyacheslav Chernikh, a scout leader from the Volga valley, says: "Everywhere you turn you hear the word scout. I already have nightmares about some retired major ordering a scout troop into formation with the traditional drill, *up down*."

Among those moving in, Chernikh says, are the discredited apparatchiks of the Komsomol Youth League and the Pioneer Pamyat, the ultra-nationalist group that blames Russia's problems on Jews and foreigners, is looking at scouting as a model for its youth detachment, and the military auxiliary responsible for training schoolchildren has been reading its Baden-Powell handbook as well.

Ninety leaders of competing wings of the emerging scouting movement met in Moscow recently to try to create a single national organisation, under the watchful eye of Jacques Mortillon, director of the Geneva-based World Organisation of the Scout Movement. The attempt was less than successful and the deadline for a decision has been set for the next world scouting conference in Bangkok in 1993. But will there be a Soviet Union left by then?

Ingham on record

Having toasted his own health at his Croydon home last night the newly knighted Bernard Ingham will this morning start serious work on his memoirs. The former Downing Street spokesman has promised to deliver the manuscript within the next six months to his publishers, Harper Collins. "I haven't started work on it yet," confessed Sir



Bernard. "I haven't kept any diaries. I haven't done any research. It's all in my head."

The book can be expected to settle a few old scores, as the unattributable sources finally go on the record: it is ominously titled *Kill the Messenger*. "Lots of people have shot at me over the years," he growls, adding uncharacteristically: "You can quote me on that."

Awaiting orders

The latest recipient of the Order of Merit may have a long wait before she meets her fellow members of the club. Mrs Thatcher will not have an opportunity to meet the other 23 wearers of the blue and crimson ribbon until they next assemble for lunch at Buckingham Palace, which is unlikely to happen for another two years.

Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, honoured with the Order in 1981, says: "The lunches are held every three years and I was at the last one a year ago. We have no formal duties and don't all meet at any other time."

At the next lunch, probably in 1992, Mrs Thatcher will have a chance to swap stories with the

likes of Lord Zuckerman, Sir Michael Tippet and Graham Greene. But she should be warned, that her fellow OM wearers are a clanish lot. "I still feel a very junior member of the order," says Cheshire. "Most of them are very intellectual, and I'm not. We don't talk to each other all the time. It is not that sort of club."

Stews at ten

The resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze could not have come at a worse time for ITN. The newsroom was making the final move to its new headquarters in Gray's Inn Road and only half the staff remained at the old West End headquarters in Wells Street to broadcast the last *News at Ten* to go out from there. "It was certainly inconvenient," said chairman Sir David Nicholas, who has been overseeing the transfer. "But it could have been worse: war might have broken out in the Gulf."

Sitting on the floor of his bare new office, Nicholas was a touch nostalgic for the old studio. "We moved in the day after British troops marched into Londonderry in 1969. Journalism is the first draft of history and I wish we had kept more material from those days to start a museum." While packing, Nicholas did discover one archive treasure: ITN's old assignment records. "They are in huge old volumes like bank ledgers, with the assignment editor's instructions written in pencil. They show where everybody was sent each day, including such cub reporters as Reggie Bosmanquet and Gerald Seymour." Nicholas was too overwhelmed to organise a farewell party last night but there

was at least something to celebrate in associate editor Dame Sue Timson's appearance in the resignation honours list.

Football crowds can be so cruel. Only hours after the Arsenal and England footballer Tony Adams was sent to prison for reckless driving, terraces around the country were ringing to chants about him. One was at Brighton's Goldstone ground had composed an entire hymn of footballing abuse, sung to the tune of *Bread of Heaven*, each verse ending with the rousing chorus: "What's it like to kick a ball and chain?"

Tying squad

Ronald Hadfield, chief constable of the West Midlands, has complained to the Birmingham Law Society about a tie being worn by some solicitors in the city that mocks the emblem of the force's disbanded serious crime squad.

Members of the squad, which is under investigation for allegedly fabricating evidence, had their own tie with a swooping eagle as an emblem and the squad's initials, SCS, beneath. The tie being worn by some solicitors in the Birmingham law courts shows the same swooping eagle, but with its body pierced by a golden arrow. Underneath are the initials SLS. A police officer who asked about these initials was told they stand for "Serious Lying Squad". The Birmingham Law Society has now replied to Hadfield deploring the matter but legal wags claim there is a more innocent interpretation of the initials SLS. They insist it stands for "Serious Lawyer Squad".



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 20: The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP, was received in audience by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit. His Excellency Dr Virgilio Barco was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Colombia to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Señora Ximena Andrade de Casallao (Minister Plenipotentiary), Colonel Francisco José Amador (Military, Naval and Air Attaché), Dr Néstor Osorio (Counsellor, Office Affairs), Señora Alba Zulaga (First Secretary), and Señora Sánchez (Third Secretary).

Señora de Barco was also received by Her Majesty. Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Mr Kazuo Chiba and Madame Chiba were received in audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Majesty's relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Japan to the Court of St James's.

Today's royal engagement

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will visit The Queen's Flight at RAF Benson at 2.55 to mark the arrival of the third BAC 146 and the departure of the last Andover.

Birthdays today

Mr Alexander Bennett, former chairman, Whitbread Investment Company, 77; Mr F.G. Berkeley, Chief Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, 71; Air Commodore Dame Jean Bromet, former director, WRAF, 78; Mr B.E.S. Collins, former chairman, Nabisco Group, 67; Miss Joan Dickson, artist, 69; Miss Chris Ewart, tennis player, 36; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 53; the Earl of Haddington, 49; Mr G.P. Hughes, tennis player, 88; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 79; Mr Geoff Lewis, racehorse trainer, 55; Mr W.M. Milligan, former principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 83; the Most Rev John Murphy, former Archbishop of Cardiff, 85; Sir John Nabarro, consultant physician, 75; Mr Steve Newman, footballer, 39; Mr Anthony Powell, CH, author, 85; Sir John Quntin, chairman, Barclays Bank, 61; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, agricultural consultant, 69; Mr T.L. Robinson, former president, DRG, 78; Brigadier V.M. Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 66; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 47; Mr Creville Starkey, jockey, 51; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 46; Mr Peter Tinniswood, author, 54; Mr Jeremy Tree, former racehorse trainer, 65; Mr James Tye, director-general, British Safety Council, 69; Dr Kurt Waldheim, President of Austria, 72; Mr Carl Wilson, singer, 44.

His Excellency Mr Leif

Leifland and Mrs Leifland were received in audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Majesty's relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Sweden to the Court of St James's.

The Queen was represented by Major General Sir John Swinton (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Berkshire) at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Swinton (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Berkshire) which was held in Duns Parish Church this afternoon.

December 20: The Prince of Wales received the Australian Schoolboys' Rugby Union team at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness received the Secretary of State for Transport (Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP) at St James's Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, The London Symphony Chorus, attended a Christmas Music Concert at the Barbican Centre, EC2.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Squadron Leader David Barton RAF were in attendance. KENSINGTON PALACE

December 20: Princess Alice

Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Dame Joan Vickers-Scott at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Swinton which was held in Duns Parish Church this afternoon.

cultural consultant, 69; Mr T.L.

Robinson, former president, DRG, 78; Brigadier V.M. Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 66; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 47; Mr Creville Starkey, jockey, 51; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 46; Mr Peter Tinniswood, author, 54; Mr Jeremy Tree, former racehorse trainer, 65; Mr James Tye, director-general, British Safety Council, 69; Dr Kurt Waldheim, President of Austria, 72; Mr Carl Wilson, singer, 44.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Mathurin Régier, poet, Charles, France, 1573; Jean Racine, dramatist, La Ferté-Maclos, 1639; Sir Joseph Whitworth Bt, mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, prime minister, 1868, 1874-90, London, 1804; Joseph Stalin, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1922-53, Gori, Georgia, 1879.

DEATHS: Giovanni Boccaccio, writer, Certaldo, Italy, 1375; James Parkinson, physician, London, 1824; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, Hollywood, 1940; George Patton, American general of World War II, Heidelberg, Germany, 1945; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester, 1955.

Marriages

Mr G.W.M. Crewdson and the Hon A.M.A. Cecil. The marriage took place yesterday at Holy Trinity Brompton of Mr Giles Wilson Mervyn Crewdson, only son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Fergine Crewdson, to the Hon Aurelia Margaret Cecil, only daughter of Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney. The Rev J.A.K. Miller officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Jennifer Reid, Venetia, Edwina and Rose Langley, Alice Lindsay, Emma Lumsden, Miss Caroline Hutton and Miss Perella Davies. Mr Roddy Sale was best man.

A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent in the Far East.

Sir Francis Newman, Bt and Miss K.M. Edwards. The marriage took place on Tuesday, December 18, in Nepal, of Sir Francis Newman, Bt, and Miss Katharine Edwards.

Captain N.B. Henderson and Miss S. Tait. The marriage took place on Thursday, December 20, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, of Captain Nicholas Brodie Henderson, 17th/21st Lancers, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Henderson, and Miss Sophie Tait, younger daughter of Admiral Sir Gordon and Lady Tait. The Rev Rev Peter Cryan, ODC, of St Peter's, Francis Edwards, SJ, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was

attended by Camilla, Lucy and Rupert Ralston, Miranda Hildesley-Chaplin, Rose Webb-Carter, Alexander and Olivia Horning, Sam Strang Steel and Rachel and Jonathan Stenning. Mr James Henderson was best man.

A Lance Guard was formed by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 17th/21st Lancers.

A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent in the Far East.

OBITUARIES

SIR WILLIAM WEIPERS

Professor Sir William Weipers, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Glasgow Veterinary School from 1968 to 1974, died on December 15 aged 86. He was born on January 21, 1904.

SIR William "Bill" Weipers, was universally regarded as the father of the modern veterinary school at the University of Glasgow and he had a far-reaching influence on the development of veterinary teaching and research in other parts of the world. He was born in Kilburnie, Ayrshire, the son of the Church of Scotland minister of that parish. His mother originated from farming stock in Aberdeenshire.

The family moved to the East End of Glasgow in 1908 when he was four and he went to primary school in Dennistoun and then to Whitehill Secondary School. He entered the Old Glasgow Veterinary College in 1921 and graduated MRCVS in 1925. Subsequently his whole working life was spent in Glasgow except for a year's study in Edinburgh for the Diploma in State Veterinary Medicine and two years on the staff of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh where he eventually became a member of the board of management.

On returning to Glasgow he set up in practice in the West End and rapidly established a reputation as an outstanding clinician. Patients were brought from all corners of the country to his surgery or alternatively he travelled to visit his patients. However, despite his reputation as a clinician Weipers was primarily remembered as the man who took the Glasgow Veterinary College into the university system in 1949 following the second Lovelady report and he became director



of the school in 1949 and eventually dean when the faculty was established in 1968. Aided and abetted by two successive principals of Glasgow University, Sir Hector Hetherington and Sir Charles Wilson, he established the Glasgow Veterinary School as one of the finest in Europe and gained world-wide recognition for its teaching and research.

When he retired in 1974 Weipers could reflect with some satisfaction on his contribution to veterinary education and research throughout the world. He was associated with the development of the veterinary faculty at Nairobi and was a

permanent member of the Agricultural Research Council and the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

The events of 1986 through to 1990 during which period the veterinary school in Glasgow was threatened by a recommendation for closure, had a disturbing effect on him. However, in spite of his advancing years, he entered the fray and played a positive role in arguing for the continuation of veterinary education at Glasgow. He and his great friend Sir James Black presented a petition to the prime minister containing nearly 700,000 signatures from all over the world, protesting against the recommendations

of the Kiley working party. When the veterinary school was finally reprieved in February 1990 his pleasure knew no bounds.

A kind and considerate man with a pawk sense of humour, Weipers had as his greatest asset an ability to judge people. This enabled him to select in the 1950s an outstanding group of young veterinary scientists who developed the research strengths of the school to the level which exists today.

Once fired with an idea Weipers pursued it with great logical vigour. Once, when he was in practice in Glasgow a drug traveller called and suggested Bill might like to go sailing with him. Despite his Calvinistic feelings that inducements should not be accepted, off they went to Arran and he was rapidly hooked on the sport. By the next week he had purchased a boat and two books on sailing. The following weekend he set out from Gourock on the Clyde, having read chapter one. Just beyond the pier the boat was blown over and the sail filled with water. He luffed her up as advised in chapter two and sailed across the firth, standing on the side of the boat. Then, following the practice laid down in chapters three and four he got her to a berth and tied her up.

His interests spanned many other areas, the countryside, animal welfare, sailing, wine and food, debating and above all arboriculture. Evidence of the last is evident in many parts of the university.

In 1939 he married Mary MacLean who came from Barra, and so a life-long association with that island was formed, culminating in the purchase of a cottage which they renovated and visited regularly. Lady Weipers died in 1984 and he is survived by his daughter.

JOYCE PORTER

Joyce Porter, crime novelist, died on December 9 aged 66. She was born on March 28, 1924.

JOYCE Porter wrote crime novels of that difficult and dubious kind which hovers between spoof and seriousness. Although their humour was black, they found quite a wide readership, not only on both sides of the Atlantic, but in various foreign language editions, including Japanese. The last, *The Cart Before the Horse*, was published in 1979, but many are still available and they are now being reissued in America. This was really all she had ever hoped for them. "I write to make money," she said, "and to while away a couple of hours for the reader."

She was born in Marple, Cheshire. Her father, Joshua Porter, was a solicitor's clerk. Her surviving brother, Canon Roy Porter, is a theologian and former teacher of classical Hebrew at Oxford and Exeter universities. Joyce Porter went to Macclesfield High School for Girls and then read

English at King's College, London. After serving briefly in the ATS and drifting through some secretarial jobs, she joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1949. A two-year Russian course qualified her for confidential work which she found absorbing.

In 1963, having been transferred to a recruiting job, she left the service, but she had already prepared the way for a new career by completing three detective novels. Some what prosaically named *Dover One*, *Dover Two* and *Dover Three*, they were published respectively in 1964, 1965 and 1966, by Cape in Britain and Scribner's in New York. Their protagonist was the fat, ill-tempered Chief Inspector Dover, who seemed more concerned with his own creature comforts than with the catching of criminals. "The fact that his career as a detective had endured," wrote Miss Porter, "and even flourished in a mild way, was almost entirely due to the fact that most criminals, incredible as it may seem, were even more inept and stupid."

In 1967, with *The Chinks in the Curtain*, she launched a new series, featuring an almost equally anti-heroic secret agent, Eddie Brown, who, characteristically, in the next book about him, *Neither a Candle nor a Pichfork* (1969), had to ward off, while in female disguise, the advances of a lesbian Soviet official.

Joyce Porter's fictional world contained, indeed revelled in, every form of repulsive behaviour from incest to cannibalism and violent castration. A third, more memorable series began with *Rather a Common Sort of Crime* (1970). The protagonist, on this occasion, was an aristocratic amateur detective, Ethel Morrison-Burke, known as the Hon Con, who had taken to criminal investigation because callisthenics failed to absorb her inexhaustible energy. Unintelligent though they might seem to be, both Dover and the Hon Con did solve their crimes, and by methods quite legitimate within the conventions of a

straight detective story. They are, Dover especially, substantial characters of a grotesque sort. Dover featured also in a dozen short stories, mainly for Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*.

Joyce Porter never married and lived for many years in Wiltshire. She evidently found rural life less black than she painted it in her novels since she threw herself enthusiastically into village activities. During the past 11 years, having made enough money for her needs, she wrote no more detective fiction but devoted herself instead to wide-ranging original research for what would eventually have been a biography of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, sister of the last Tsar, who became a nun, founded a convent in Jerusalem and was killed at Ekaterinburg.

A few weeks ago, on a trip to China with her brother, Miss Porter contracted pneumonia. She seemed to have been cured but died suddenly on the aeroplane as they flew home.

Archaeology

Graffito puts expert on trail of London lighthouse

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN London may have had a lighthouse similar to the great Pharos of Alexandria, according to an archaeologist who also suggests that part of the lighthouse may survive within the Tower of London.

The prime clue is a Roman brick in the British Museum incised with a graffito of a four-storey building, each storey set back from the one below. Nicholas Fuentes, an archaeologist, says in the *London Archaeologist* that the brick came from the collection of Charles Roach Smith, the

pioneer rescue archaeologist of London who died in 1890, and thus is likely to be from the city.

More than two dozen Roman representations of pharos are known from mosaics and sculptures, many showing the stepped-back profile. The Pharos at Alexandria is known from ancient descriptions to have been similar. It was built around 300 BC, stood over 300 ft high, and had a light visible for more than 35 miles. Mr Fuentes says that the London brick is likely to

have been decorated by a workman and "appears to show a pharos in elevation, while attempting to indicate an octagonal plan for its lowest storey, amended to three rectangular storeys surrounded by a square and by a light-tower of undefined plan".

The obvious location for a lighthouse would be on the river at the downstream end of the City. The Tower of London had two tall towers shown in early picture-maps. Of the two, the Bell Tower is octagonal in plan with three offsets in the wall, and a rather awkward circular upper part which is thought to be later. There is, however, internal architectural evidence for a twelfth century date. The Lanthorn Tower, says Mr Fuentes, is arguably better located. The original tower was destroyed in 1777 but on a scaled plan of 1682 it is shown with an octagonal vice (a spiral stair around a central pillar) some 23 ft across.

The concept of a late Roman defensive area under the Tower of London, first posited by Sir Alfred Clapham in 1913, receives some support from finds of silver ingots and a building of 4th century date. While Mr Fuentes concludes that only excavation will determine whether the octagonal predecessor of the present Lanthorn Tower is Roman in origin, there is little likelihood of proving it to have been a lighthouse.

Source: *London Archaeologist*, vol 6 No 8: 208-215.

Design fault that dogged Roman barn conversion

ARCHAEOLOGISTS claim to have discovered Britain's earliest barn conversion - a primitive building in Northamptonshire that was upgraded into a comfortable Roman residence (Norman Hammond writes).

At the site near Raunds, a Roman barn and mill had been converted into a villa, complete with underfloor heating and mosaic floors. Later, though, it had to be partly demolished because of faulty planning. The gable wall of one wing of the villa at Stanwick was found flat on the ground after being pushed over. The wing was unsafe because it was built over the

leat - or water-channel - that supplied the original mill. Graham Keavill, of the Oxford archaeological unit, said: "In the 2nd century a simple two-roomed building

was constructed. The larger room was probably the miller's house, but that to the east acted as a cellar. The south side had a large barn door. When the mill went out of use, the original mill-cum-barn became the core of a desirable winged corridor villa - the first 'puppy' barn conversion in Britain."

A hypocaust, a typical Roman underfloor heating system was installed, the former mill was floored with mosaics, east and west wings were added and an upper floor constructed. It was partly demolished in the 4th or 5th century.

The project complements the work of English Heritage which has been uncovering an entire Roman estate a mile from the villa.

Source: *Current Archaeology* 122:52-55.

ANNE REVERE

Anne Revere, American stage and screen actress, has died at her home on Long Island aged 87. She was born in 1903.

A CHARACTER actress of truly regal stature, Anne Revere was black-listed after winning an Oscar in Hollywood, but then returned to the Broadway stage to win a Tony award. During her film career she won an Academy award in 1945, playing Elizabeth Taylor's mother in *National Velvet*. She was also nominated for an Oscar in a supporting role as the mother of Jennifer Jones in the 1943 film, *The Song of Bernadette*, and in 1947 as Gregory Peck's mother in *Gentleman's Agreement*. She continued with her forte, which was playing maternal roles, when she was both mother and counsellor to John Garfield in the brilliant boxing epic, *Body and Soul* (1947), while in 1951 Montgomery Clift became her son in *A Place in the Sun*, based on Theodore Dreiser's epic novel of American life, *An American Tragedy*.

However that same year, her name was among 300 which appeared on the Hollywood black-list. She had refused to testify about any possible ties with the Communist party when she appeared before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Rather than allow any aspersion to be cast on the Screen Actors Guild as a result of her refusal, she voluntarily resigned from its board of directors. She then returned to the New York stage, where she had begun a distinguished career in the early 1930s.

Born into a comfortable New England family - her father was a stockbroker and a descendant of Paul Revere, of American Revolution fame - she graduated from Wellesley College and worked in repertory companies after studying at the American Laboratory School in New York.

She made her Broadway debut in *The Great Barrington* in 1931, but it was not until

1934, when she portrayed Martha Dobie in Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour* that her talents were fully recognised. The drama polarised audiences, dealing as it did with lesbianism, and Miss Revere was very much at the forefront of the legal action which took place to keep it on the stage in Boston, where it had been banned by the mayor. Coincidentally, it was in another Lillian Hellman play, *Toys In The Attic*, in which she played an inflexible spinster opposite Maureen Stapleton and Jason Robards, that she received the Antoinette Perry (Tony) Award, 36 years later.

Until her defiance of the House committee she had worked steadily in such distinguished pictures as *The Howards of Virginia*, *The Flame of New Orleans*, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, *Dragonwyck*, *You're My Everything* and many more.

She acknowledged late in her life that during her years in films, "I got to know communists and communists, but I knew it wasn't for me. I'm a free-thinking Yankee rebel, and nobody's going to tell me what to do." It was that defiant attitude, rather than her politics, which she believed had got her into trouble with the House committee.

She was married to for 49 years to the stage director Samuel Rosen, who died in 1984.



ALAN YATES

Alan Yates, surgeon, has died from cancer aged 57. He was born on December 9, 1932.

WITH the early death of Alan Yates the cardiac surgical world has lost someone full of vitality, humour and an enormous capacity for work. Yet he was above all a devoted family man. Yates qualified with honours at Sheffield and after house jobs did his national service in Gibraltar.

He trained under Lord Brock at Guy's Hospital which was the making of him as a cardiac surgeon. Lord Brock held him in the highest esteem and he progressed rapidly in clinical acumen and surgical skills, being elected to the staff of Guy's in the late 1960s.

He could have made a fortune in private practice but instead he devoted most of his time to the National Health Service. He excelled and took great delight in careful pre-operative assessment and meticulous post-operative care, especially in the intensive care unit which he personally directed for 20 years, giving his expertise to patients in his own and in

other units. He would start work early in the morning and was often still at it late into the evening. There was hardly a Saturday when he did not operate on National Health Service patients. This continued until a few months before his death.

He shouldered his management tasks with the same gusto and thoroughness that he displayed in all his other duties. He always spoke his mind in a direct and friendly way, delivering his advice with a refreshing frankness and always with an infectious laugh.

In the 1970s he went to the Middle East to help in establishing cardiac services. On one particularly hot day he plunged into the Mediterranean and swam across the harbour at a speed never seen before by his surgical colleagues. On his return they closely questioned him. He admitted that he had done some swimming in his youth, but until hard pressed he concealed the fact that he had swum in the 1954 Olympics.

He leaves his widow and four sons.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.D. Brecher and Miss S.A. Murrey. The engagement is announced of Richard Daniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry A. Brecher, of London, to Shirley Ann, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Murrey, of London.

Mr H.M. Cobbold and Miss N.J. Hacker. The engagement is announced between Humphrey Michael, son of Mr Anthony Cobbold, of Weston under Redcliffe, Shropshire, and Mrs Marjorie Cobbold, of Congleton, Cheshire, and Nicola Josephine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hacker, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr N.J. Cox and Miss B.J. Hornsby. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of the late Major L.F. Cox, RA, and of Mrs P.A. Cox, of Malvern, Worcestershire, and Belinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F. Hornsby, of Hetherst, Norfolk.

Mr D.J. Dorman and Miss J.R. Morgan. The engagement is announced between Derek, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Dorman, of Glasgow, and Justine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Morgan, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr R.H. Garai and Mrs E.D.J. Eldon. The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr Bertram Garai and the late Mrs Muriel Garai, of Woking, Surrey, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Reilly, of East Grinstead, Sussex.

Mr T.P. in Hange Brown and Miss F.K. Shaw. The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Professor and Mrs Stephen Brown, of Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Nottinghamshire, and Fiona, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Shaw, of Curbar, Derbyshire.

Mr W.N. Herring and Miss K. Radpath. Mr and Mrs W. Redpath, of Appleton Park, Cheshire, are pleased to announce the engagement of their elder daughter Karen to William, son of Mr and Mrs R.N. Herring, of Roxby, South Humberside.

Lord Rayleigh and Miss A.E. Patterson. The engagement is announced between Lord Rayleigh, of Terling Place, Chelmsford, Essex, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Mr W.G. Patterson, of Kibbly Farm, Echingworth, Newbury, and the Hon Mrs Sandra Patterson, of 23 Lamoni Road, London SW10.

Mr J.S. Roger and Miss K.E. Ringwald. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Roger, of Hereford, Herefordshire, and Kathy, daughter of Mr Richard Ringwald, CBE, and Mrs Audrey Ringwald, of Bradford, Berkshire.

Mr H.L.A. Summers and Miss H.J.C. Anstruther. The engagement is announced between Hamish, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tony Summers, of Adelaide, Australia, and Harriet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Anstruther, of Perworth, Sussex.

Mr J.P.L. Sweet and Miss F.M. Philipson. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.C.L. Sweet, of Cosham, Buckinghamshire, and Fiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs I.M. Philipson, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr B.H. Sykes and Miss B.M. Sneyd. The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Sykes, of Cheside, Cheshire, and Bridget, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Sneyd, of Menchies, Cornwall.

Mr N.J. Ward and Miss C.J. Smith. The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, youngest son of Dr and Mrs R. Ward, of Oakley, Hampshire, and Catherine Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.H.B. Smith, of Church Knowle, Dorset.

Mr J.C.E. Wilson and Miss C.A. Oakes. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Wilson, of Ingoldthorpe, Norfolk, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.E. Oakes, also of Ingoldthorpe, Norfolk.

University news

Liverpool. Appointments. David Oldham, Senior Lecturer in the School of Architectural Studies at the University of Sheffield, has been appointed to the Chair of Building Engineering.

David Schiffrin, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, University of Southampton, has been appointed to the Chair of Physical Chemistry.

Alan Shenkin, Consultant Biochemist, Institute of Biochemistry at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, has been appointed to the Chair in Clinical Chemistry.

Avrom Sherr, Lecturer in Law and Director of Legal Practice, University of Warwick, has been appointed to the Alsop Wilkinson Chair of Law.

Strathelyde. Mr Tom Ridley, of Ove Arup and Partners, has been appointed a visiting professor to assist with a new post-graduate course in integrated building design next year at Strathelyde.

Stirling. Dr Magdalena Crath, professor of strategic management and international business at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, US, has been

appointed to the new chair in international business, from next June.

Royal Victorian Order

The Queen has commanded that a service of the Royal Victorian Order is to be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor, at 11.00am on Tuesday, April 30, followed by a reception in St George's Hall, Windsor Castle, for all Members and Medalists of the Order attending the service.

Due to the limited seating capacity of the chapel, tickets for the service and the reception will be restricted to Members of the Order and holders of the Royal Victoria Medal only. Please do not apply for tickets for spouses, or other guests, who are not Members or Medalists of the Order. Honorary Members of the Order are not eligible to attend.

Members of the Order and Medal holders who wish to attend should apply for a ticket as soon as possible and not later than Friday, March 15, 1991, stating also if they require a car parking label. Applications should be made to the Registrar of the Royal Victorian Order, The Central Chancery, Orders of Knighthood, St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BH.

Appointments

Judge John Anthony Stannard to carry out the duties of a Circuit Commercial Judge in Liverpool, in accordance with the Lord Chief Justice's Practice Direction issued in February. He will conduct hearings in Liverpool.

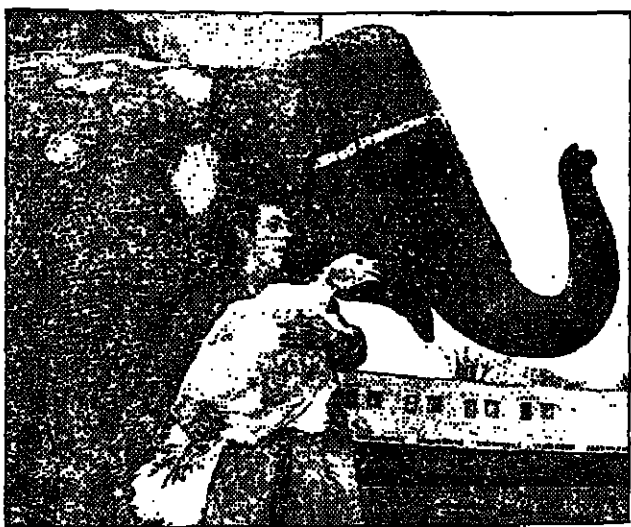
Mr John Stephen Sailer to be chairman of the Authorised Conveyancing Practitioners Board from February 1, 1991.

Mr Khursheed Dabhi to be chairman of the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service.

Downside Abbey. The Community of Downside Abbey, assembled in Chapter on December 15, 1990, elected Dom Charles Fitzgerald-Lowdon to be the 10th Abbot of Downside in succession to Abbot John Roberts.

حکومت الامم

The turkey takes a bow



The three ring turkey: Lucky is at home in the circus

A bird destined to become a Christmas centrepiece has ended up centre stage

LIFE for the average British turkey is pretty straightforward. He is born, fattened and then killed. We can be reasonably certain that there is no poetry, no romance, no heartsearching quest for a *raison d'être*. It is a short life with no purpose other than to provide the simmering centrepiece of Christmas lunch.

This season about ten million British turkeys will be killed. Rare is the bird that bucks the system and lives to gobble on a bright and frosty Boxing Day dawn.

But such a bird is Lucky, the cherished pet of Gerry Cottle, the circus owner. This Christmas, while millions of his species head for posthumous stuffing, Lucky will celebrate the fourth anniversary of his escape — his failure to rendezvous with the oven.

For the past four years he has lived happily at Addlestone Moor, Weybridge, Surrey, the site of Mr Cottle's winter quarters. On special occasions he has a cameo role in the circus, usually trotting after the clowns. "He always raises a laugh," Mr Cottle says. "In the summer he loses lots of feathers — it's not every circus that boasts a bald turkey."

The impresario spotted Lucky in 1987 when he was buying meat to feed his lions. Preferring fresh turkey he bought the bird from his local butcher intending to give him some last minute fattening before having him for Christmas lunch. However, once Mr Cottle had taken a closer look at his live purchase, he had second thoughts.

"There was something about him. He had an interest-

ing face, different, a streak of individuality, exhibitionism, call it what you will. I decided to keep him," he says.

With a brain the size of an undernourished pea, it is unlikely that the reprimanded turkey was aware of his U-turn with destiny. Mr Cottle claims his unusual pet has a unique personality. "He is different. It is hard to pin down how or why. But because he was bred for consumption it's difficult to keep his weight down. We have him on a permanent diet."

Lucky has befriended Mr Cottle's trio of Indian elephants, Susie, Jamie and Sarah. Sensibly, he gives the lions a wide berth. But having avoided conversion to a main course he did once have a brush with mortality. "Our llama sat on him and he was squashed," Mr Cottle says. "It killed the stuffing out of him. But the local vet had him up and about in no time."

THIS Christmas will provide one of the highlights in Lucky's calendar. On December 27, when millions of citizens will be staring bleary-eyed at plates of jaded leftovers, Lucky will be performing centre stage at Mr Cottle's Big Top at Wembley.

Father John Meivier, the local vicar of St Michael's Church, will bless the circus animals and the pets of spectators. Lucky is travelling from Weybridge to take part in the ceremony.

"He hasn't much of a brain and he doesn't say much but we are all very fond him," Mr Cottle says.

JOHN MCENTEE

Expensive power to the people

As the toys and games given to children grow in cost and complexity, so do the batteries they require. Victoria McKee tests a selection

Batteries play an increasing role in the contemporary Christmas ritual. Unless you are green enough (in all senses of the word) to believe you can convince your children to content themselves with home-made solar-powered toys, or hand-carved wooden ones from sustainable forests, batteries must be among the priorities on your shopping list this weekend. And unless you are careful, you can end up spending more to maintain a walking, talking doll than some men give their former wives for maintenance.

In a month's time the cost of the batteries you have bought could add up to more than the price of the toys which require them — if nature does not kindly intervene by ensuring the children have lost interest by then.

Toys are increasingly powered by batteries rather than imagination, until it is not even safe to assume that board games and doll's houses can do without them.

The Precious Places plastic houses (one of this season's hottest gifts for girls) not only need to be assembled (a fact not advertised on the box), but demand batteries for their full preciousness to be appreciated. And games such as Shark Chase (£13.99) and Bedbugs (£10.99) cannot be played without them. In fact, one of the only good things to say about Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles is that few of their products (with the exception of walkie-talkies) require batteries.

Parents should read toy boxes carefully before wrapping them, as the disclaimer "batteries not included" can be printed in very small letters.

Nothing is a bigger disappointment than the moving doll who refuses to move, even when you kick and shake her, or who begins to growl in a most unpleasant way when her batteries wear down — like the Oopie Daisy, £37.87 from Argos, one of this year's top sellers who crawls and cries. And that takes only about eight hours on Duracell alkaline, and as little as three on less expensive, zinc chloride batteries.

A smaller crawling doll, the Primeline Baby Crawl Away (£9.99 from Beatties) pegged out after her

six hours on £1.49-worth of Vidor alkaline long life batteries, and three on Vidor rechargeables.

The Nintendo Game Boy handheld computer game console (£69.95) — addictive and in constant use by four children — did not last a weekend on Ever Ready's zinc chloride, but survived for nearly two weeks on Duracell's longer-lasting and more expensive alkaline batteries, which means it costs about £5 a month to maintain — even when it is not in use when the children are back at school.

Remote-controlled cars seem to eat batteries — particularly as they can be "on" and draining even when they are not moving. Both car and control need to be switched off for optimum economy, and even a small one like the Tanyo Mini-Hopper III (£29.95 from Beatties) went through four Vidor alkaline MN1500s (£2.98 a pack) plus a nine-volt battery (£2.98) in a week-end's heavy use by our four young testers.

We also tested a battery-operated Tomy football game (£17.50 from Beatties) which was so noisy that we never exhausted its battery life.

If greenness is a consideration, Varta was a pioneer of mercury and cadmium-free zinc chloride, and low mercury and cadmium alkaline batteries, although the German-owned company generously points out that most of its major competitors now conform to EC guidelines of not more than 0.025 per cent of mercury or cadmium by weight for alkaline batteries. Several of them put green flashes on their packs proclaiming "EEC-Approved — For The Environment", although this does not indicate any official endorsement. Our tests — admittedly not terribly scientific — did not show any discernible difference in usage times between leading brands of alkaline, zinc chloride and rechargeable batteries, although a recent report in November's *Which?* magazine recommends Panasonic rechargeable batteries as having performed best in its laboratory tests, and in a study by the Good Housekeeping Institute Vidor tied with Ever Ready for top

One doll growls unpleasantly when her batteries wear down



Things that go bump on Christmas Day: but only if parents have remembered to buy the power packs

place among alkalines. (*Which?* also noted in the same report that "fresh from the factory, a disposable battery has already used up to 50 times the power in being made that it will ever provide the user".)

Paul Fildes, Varta's marketing services manager, says: "Undoubtedly rechargeable batteries are the greenest and most economical choice, because they can be recharged up to 1,000 times at only about 1/10 per charge cycle." Varta invites consumers to freepost their used rechargeables back to the company for recycling of the small amount of cadmium in them — and for every two cells sent back they are given a 50p voucher towards their next purchase of rechargeables. Varta is also working on a cadmium-free rechargeable, using nickel hydride, but says: "There's no point in introducing a green

product if performance has to be compromised, because people just won't buy it."

But the price of rechargeables — about £8 per pack of four MN1500s, compared with £1.50 for zinc chlorides which give a comparable (if one-off) performance — and the necessity to invest in at least two sets plus a charger (not less than about £10) can be off-putting to parents who do not take the long-term perspective.

Stocking up with rechargeables can cost more than the price of the toy for which they are intended — and parents complain that they do not hold their charge, possibly because, Mr Fildes suggests, they are not charging them correctly, or because they expect the performance of long-life alkalines.

Remembering that rechargeables do not come ready-charged is

important. If they are essential to the enjoyment of Christmas, you had better start charging the night before.

"I've watched mothers going round the supermarket," says Mr Fildes (whose batteries sell mainly through supermarkets such as Gateway, Safeway and Sainsbury). "I see them buying mainly the lower-priced zinc chloride batteries, because they know their children are not going to switch off toys and will leave them draining all night, so it doesn't make a halfpenny of difference buying the twice as expensive alkaline sort."

You have been warned. And there is still time to return all the battery-operated toys you have already bought, and opt instead for those which rely more on imagination and ingenuity.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

If you missed out on electricity, here's a Christmas present from Town & Country.

UP TO 11.25% NET	£	15.00% GROSS
-------------------------	----------	---------------------

Interest backdated to 4th December!

Open a Super 90 account with just £500 and, as a limited offer, we will back-date the interest on your deposit to 4th December 1990.

Give 90 days' notice and you can withdraw your money without penalty. Or you can get instant access* with a loss of 90 days' interest at the current rate on the amount withdrawn.

What's more, if after any withdrawal £10,000 remains in your account, you gain immediate access without any penalty at all. You can even choose between annual or monthly interest** payments too.

If you want interest on days gone by, hurry to your local branch, call 0800 400 400 or send off the coupon today.

TOWN & COUNTRY BUILDING SOCIETY

& INVESTMENTS & MONEY & EFFICIENCY & BANKING & PEOPLE &

*Subject to conditions. **With 0.5% less than the variable net rate. Interest paid before 5th April 1991 can only be paid net of basic rate tax which cannot be reclaimed. Any interest paid after 5th April 1991 will be payable net of basic rate tax (which may be reclaimed by non-tax payers) or, subject to the required certification, gross. If the account is closed prior to 5th April 1991, interest will be paid at the appropriate variable net rate shown. Basic rate tax liability on which will be discharged and may not be reclaimed. All interest rates shown are variable. For full details send the coupon to Town & Country Building Society, Freeport 98, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1BR.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ T 21/2 5933

£ SUPER 90 £

An A to Z of festive additives

WE ALL add a little to our consumption at Christmas. Precisely what, though, may come as a surprise. Here is an A to Z of Christmas food technology and seasonal additives which might mean that it is you who groan, rather than the festive board.

A is for amaranth (E123). It could be in your gravy if that is made from granules, or in packet soup, fruit pie fillings, ice-cream, jam or yoghurt. It is suspected of being carcinogenic, but the evidence is not accepted in the UK. Amaranth is banned in the United States and Soviet Union.

B is for beetroot red (E162). BA "natural" colour increasingly used to simulate the colour of red berry fruits in party desserts, yoghurts and such. It is not necessarily any safer than artificial colouring.

C is for caramel (E150). Ubiquitous, and not merely burnt sugar. It is more commonly made by heating carbohydrates with ammonia and sulphur dioxide. The Food Advisory Committee is concerned that we may all be eating too much caramel, which is estimated to account for 98 per cent of all the colouring most of us consume. C also stands for canthaxanthin (E161g), used in fish feed to turn farmed salmon pink.

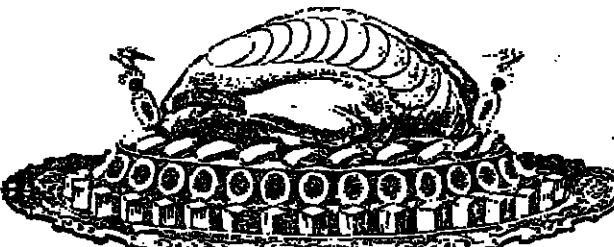
D is for dichlorodifluoromethane, one of the liquid gases used in quick freezing tender foods such as peas and brussels sprouts. This was the chemical with which Thomas Midgley proved that chlorofluorocarbons were not toxic, and could be used as refrigerants. Unfortunately he did not know they would go on to eat up the ozone layer.

E is for erythrosine (E127). An artificial colouring which keeps the cherries in Christmas cakes from going brown. The Food Advisory Committee warns its use restricted to glaze and cocktail cherries. The Committee on Toxicity thinks even that could have harmful effects. It can still be used in unlimited quantities in jams, cakes, desserts and other foods.

F is for fat. If you want to avoid it, steam and skin the poultry, bake the potato, and go without the trimmings.

G is for gold. Yes, even one of the Wise Men's gifts comes with an E number —

Your Christmas dinner may not be as wholesome or appetising as it appears



used to decorate luxury cakes, chocolates and confectionery it is E175. Not all that glisters is gold, though. The gloss on dried fruit is more likely to come from liquid paraffin (905) and the shine on apples could be shellac (904).

H is for hydrogenated. Hydrogenation hardens vegetable oils, and thus makes their fat more saturated and potentially more harmful. Hydrogenated vegetable oils are likely to be in Christmas cakes, pies, and puddings.

I is for iron oxide (E172). Make your party cakes from packet mixes, and rust could be a surprise ingredient.

J is for jams and jellies. These can be a highly confected brew of colourings, preservatives, antioxidants, stabilisers, buffers, sequestrants, flavourings and sweeteners.

K is for kaolin (559). With morphine it may settle your stomach. In food technology it is an anti-caking agent. That does not mean it is meant to put you off cake, but that it is used to prevent food particles sticking together.

L is for lecithin (E322). An emulsifier produced from soya beans, vegetable oils, eggs, milk, liver or fish, which binds together fat and water so that manufacturers can sell water in "low-fat spreads" at margarine prices.

M is for magnesium silicate (E553a). Another anti-caking agent, this time employed principally in sugar confectionery.

N is for nitrous oxide. If your cream comes from an aerosol can, most of its volume is likely to come from this propellant gas.

O is for octyl gallate (E311). An antioxidant used in chicken soup and instant no-

tato products. Like other galates (E310-E312), it is banned from baby foods, and suspected of causing intolerance, liver damage, and irritating the intestines.

P is for propionic acid (E280). This could be the preservative that stops your Christmas pudding going mouldy. It has been taken out of bread, so many bakers now use vinegar instead.

Q is for quinoline yellow (E104), one of the coal tar dyes which can cause asthma, rashes and hyperactivity. Q also stands for quillaia extract, used to put a foaming head on some soft drinks, such as ginger beer.

R is for riboflavin (E101), a vitamin (B2) which is one of only three colourings still permitted in baby foods. It is orange-yellow and can be extracted from natural sources or manufactured synthetically. Its worst known effect is to discolour the urine.

S is for salt-petre (E249). The preservative which kept botulism at bay, still used in curing bacon and hams, is now, like all nitrates and nitrites (E249-E252), well established on the suspect list. Nitrates and nitrites can produce nitrosamines which have been linked to cancer and foetal abnormalities in animals. The Food Advisory Committee suggested phasing them out 17 years ago, but no substitutes have been found.

T is for tartrazine (E102). The most notorious of the synthetic azo dyes may still be found in marzipan. People who experience adverse reactions to tartrazine may develop asthma, migraine, dermatitis, rashes and other skin complaints.

U is for UHT. Over the Christmas and New Year

holidays more people than ever are likely to buy UHT (long-life) milk, cream and juices. Ultra heat treatment is a method of sterilisation which has been in use since the Sixties. It involves injecting the liquid with steam and then using flash evaporation to reconstitute it to its original strength. UHT creams and milks taste "cooked". UHT cream may contain added citrates (E331-E333) as flavouring emulsifiers. UHT fruit juices taste different from fresh too, and lose much of their vitamin C content.

V is for vanilla. Tons of "vanilla" ice-cream and confectionery have no trace of real vanilla, which is the pod of a climbing orchid. Instead they are flavoured with cheaper vanillin, a substance obtained from waste sulphite liquor, a by-product of paper making, and may be coloured with curcumin (E100), turmeric or carotene (E160a) to achieve a creamy appearance.

W is for water. The food manufacturers' most profitable ingredient, it is present in increasing quantities in poultry, hams, spreads, frozen foods and even bread. Polyphosphates (545) can be used to increase the water content of chickens, turkeys and cooked meat products by up to 120 per cent.

X is for xanthan gum (E415). Not as widely used as gum arabic (E414) in confectionery, or tragacanth gum (E413) in salad dressings and processed cheese, but it serves a similar purpose as an emulsifier. Without emulsifiers, manufacturers' sauces would separate and fat would float to the top of dairy products. They are also used in brandy and rum sauces.

Y is for yellow, a troublesome colour. Yellow 2G (107) was proved toxic and has been withdrawn. The government has also said that it intends to ban crocin, the yellow colouring derived from saffron. (See also quinoline yellow and tartrazine, above).

Z is for zest. Many people's appetite for citrus peels, traditional ingredients of Christmas cakes, puddings, sauces and stuffings, has lost its zest since they learnt that most fruit skins are waxed to extend their shelf life.

ROBIN YOUNG

Ghostly carolling of war and peace

21



Last Sunday carols were sung by candle-light in a cold Norfolk church that has stood deserted on army land for 50 years. George Hill was at the service

In eastern Europe this Christmas, thousands of worshippers will be gathered for only the first or second time since the rout of communism, to celebrate the birth of Christ in churches which were sealed off from sacred use for half a century.

The nearest Christmas parallel in Britain to those gatherings further east took place in Norfolk last Sunday, at a carol service at West Tofts church, where an old faith has been reaffirming its vitality on ground from which its expression has been barred for most of the past half-century.

The situation was not the same, but the same background of armed conflict and clash of ideologies surrounded the Norfolk congregation as they belted out the old carols with a zest attained only by those who know that the louder they sing, the better their chance of warding off hypothermia.

We had come well swaddled in overcoats, mufflers and woolly hats, for the walls around us had the chill of masonry which has stood unheated for almost 50 years.

West Tofts is one of the four ghost churches of the Breckland, on the Norfolk-Suffolk borders. In 1942, when Britain stood in imminent fear of invasion, the 750 inhabitants of 18,000 acres of farmland near Thetford were turned out of their farms and villages at five weeks' notice, when the area was requisitioned as a military training ground.

The army and the government promised that the villagers would be allowed to go home after the war - this promise was not kept. But a promise was also made in 1942 to protect the four churches from wind and weather, and this promise has been kept. The defence ministry is defensive about them, recognising their potential as a focus of protest in any future "give back our land" campaign.

The churches are almost inaccessible to the public. A trespassing foot might all too readily be blown off by an unheated shell - and in any case, the perimeter is guarded by disturbingly young lads in battledress,

nursing real guns. It is possible to visit under escort, if one applies weeks before, but the most reliable way of getting into the battle area is to die. Occasionally a former inhabitant asks to be buried there, and a cottage metaphorically ventures out into no man's land under a white flag.

Local attitudes towards the battle area were marked from the first by a mixture of patriotic stoicism and deference. What resentment there was in 1942 faded as the years passed and the appropriation became an important source of local employment. But private grief, over the loss of the places where one has grown up in, fades less easily.

The army's wind and weather guarantee extends only to basics. The churches are bare as barns, with the desolate beauty of places that are in the world, but no longer of it.

"Something has got to happen about those churches quite soon," a nameless MoD source concedes. "When those promises were made, people were thinking of the duration of the war."

This is the third year that a carol service has been held at West Tofts. It is the most accessible of the four churches, and could be released from its enchantment by a minimal readjustment of the border of the exclusion zone (an event which would be deeply embarrassing to the diocese, already overburdened with redundant churches). Before the carol service, dozens of helpers from the village worked for five days to sweep the pigeon-droppings out of the aisles and arrange candles and wreaths of holly along the windowsills.

The church was crowded to the door. It was lit inside by hundreds of candles fluttering in the draught off the hearth. The eye read the tremulous candle-light as radiantly bright, but the shadows lurking in the vaults helped to hide the big flakes of plaster peeling from the medieval spandrel, and the birds' nests in the mouldings. The church's daytime pathos of dereliction was completely dis-



Onward Christian soldiers? Decaying danger sign outside the empty church at West Tofts; the army has kept its 1942 promise to protect it against wind and weather

pelled. Each of the congregation of 340 was given a small candle to nurse, and we were grateful for the warmth it gave. Outside, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

"It was never as full as this in the old days," said 80-year-old Mary Butters, who used to be a pupil at the village school, which is now just an outline on the ground between the vanished pub and the vanished post office. "People have come from far and wide. I have put on so many layers of clothes that I'm three times my normal size - but I wish I'd brought a rug for my knees, too."

Mrs Butters has visited the site of her old home several times. "It is strange to see the village as it is now - I've cried bitter tears over it. I feel dreadful when I see the rubble which used to be our house."

Mrs Butters taught in the vanished Sunday school, and remembers the clouds of incense that

naughty choirboys used to send billowing round the church in the old days.

This week it was not incense but our breath that sent clouds billowing round the church, as we sang to keep out the cold. The band of the Royal Anglian Regiment provided a lusty accompaniment. They marked the last verse of each carol with a fanfare and a roll of drums, which braced us up willy-nilly into the infectious swagger of a march. We became the church militant, tramping in step towards the new Jerusalem.

The service was conducted with zest by Roy Tricker, a lay preacher who has written a guide to the church. He made a special prayer for peace - "especially for those who care for this training area, and those who use it" - and for "those who will be celebrating Christmas away from home - in the Gulf especially".

Events in the Gulf reached as far as West Tofts in more concrete

ways. Most handmen in the regular forces are trained not only as musicians, but also as medical personnel. Most of them have been dispatched to the Saudi desert in case their services are needed there. It was therefore a territorial regiment that provided the band for this week's service.

The carols we sang seemed to offer a running commentary on current affairs: "And man, at war with man, hears not..." Despite Saddam Hussein, this week's headlines have been filled with news of probable cuts in British forces. But Lieutenant Colonel Paul Long, commandant of the training area, attending the service in multi, said: "Use of the Stanford area was 48 per cent up last year. There is a shortage of training land in Britain, and as the troops come back from Germany, the need will increase."

Local people seem to feel little

hunger for repossession, after so long. "The army are doing a good job," Mrs Butters said. "They look after the churches very nicely, and they've got to train somewhere."

"The place is so beautiful now. If they released it, bungalows would soon be built all over it," said Richard Easton, born in Stanford 68 years ago. His sister, already a war widow, was turned out with her four children in 1942 without even receiving compensation, because they were sub-tenants.

Mr Tricker is eager to see at least one of the four ghost churches returned to the outside world, and to regular worship. "I hope there are negotiations going on in high places over these churches. Their years behind barbed wire have given them a meaning of their own. Fifty years is just an episode in the history of a church 600 years old. How can anyone dare to say it will never be needed again?"

Training goes on at Stanford throughout the year, except for ten days at Christmas. Somewhere out in the darkness, we knew, armed men must have been preparing to pass the winter night in trenches or bivouacs, taking care not to make a sound or let a glimmer of light show, for fear of night attack.

"In fields where they lay..." Perhaps they were lying close enough to hear us sing, and to see the candle-light glimmering faintly out from the church, like a good deed in a naughty world. By next month, perhaps, they will be away in the Gulf, and in the thick of whatever might be happening.

Nursing our personal candles, each one as fragile as a life and with its own tiny warmth, we rose to hear the seventh lesson. It was St John, struggling to find words for the mystery of the Incarnation: the Word... the Light... "And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not..."



Winter sports: from *A Frozen River Landscape* by Hendrick Avercamp (1585-1634); but was it any colder then?

Never too cold to paint?

Why the landscapes of Bruegel, Valkenborgh and Avercamp are keenly studied by meteorologists

WINTER landscapes, so frequently featured on Christmas cards, are known to reflect the colder climatic period from 1550 to 1850 often termed the little ice age. These pictures are also widely recognised as an accurate record of the conditions at the time. There is, therefore, a misleading impression that all winters were much colder than current seasons.

A wide range of other records provides a different picture. While severe winters were more common in that period, they were interspersed with mild winters on a par with those of the past two years. And average temperatures were only about 1°C colder than in recent decades.

These past ups and downs provide scope for some interesting detective work. There is evidence that the harshest winters exercise a disproportionate influence on artists, and therefore the dates of the paintings can confirm other records.

Possibly the first example of such a great winter was in 1408. Thomas Walsingham recorded that birds such as thrushes and blackbirds perished almost entirely through hunger and cold. The prolonged intense cold could well have inspired the Limbourg brothers to produce, a few years later, the first precocious representation of northern winter in the *Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*, now in the Musée Condé, Chantilly.

Even more striking is 1565, which inspired Pieter Bruegel the Elder to paint his famous series of winter landscapes and snowy nativity scenes. In previous years his execution of Christmas scenes was entirely different. For instance, his representation of the *Flight into Egypt* in the Princes Gate collection, painted in 1563, is set in an exotic, almost summery, mountain landscape.

In the same period the intense cold of 1573, which in central Europe may have been the coldest winter in the last half-millennium, seems to have inspired Lucas Valkenborgh to paint his rural Flemish winter scenes. These make particularly good Christmas cards because of his use of falling snow to heighten the wintry effect.

Even more popular with the card manufacturers is Hendrick Avercamp. Many of the works of this artist, who was The Netherlands' earliest specialist in winter land-

scapes, date from the extraordinarily severe winter of 1608. His large groups of happy, carefree skaters have become synonymous with our image of the little ice age.

In the 17th century the more frequent cold winters, plus the popularity of Dutch winter landscapes, makes it almost impossible to single out notable winters.

THESE bitter winters were recorded by Dutch traders in both the pictures they bought and their business transactions. Because it interfered with trade, they kept meticulous records of when the canals were frozen. These confirm the pictorial evidence of frequent icy conditions.

In England we have to thank a Dutch artist, Abraham Hondius, for the most memorable images of the frozen Thames in London. His pictures in the London Museum of the ice piled up against London Bridge in 1676, and the Frost Fair of 1684, when

the Thames was frozen for nine weeks and huge crowds gathered on the ice, are unequalled by any other record of the period.

The surprising feature of the 18th century is that, despite having its share of severe winters, there nothing to match the flood of creative work in the preceding century and a half. So, apart from some notable British skating portraits, we have to wait until the 19th century for a new approach to the winter landscape.

The new development came in two forms. First was the forbidding and ominous work of Caspar David Friedrich, the German Romantic painter. His most famous picture is perhaps *Arctic Shipwreck* in the Kunsthalle, Hamburg. Inspired by the ice piled up on the River Elbe during the record-breaking cold of January 1823, he produced a stunning, desolate arctic scene. But in Britain, his recently acquired *Winter Landscape* in the National Gallery may be better known.

The second expression comes in the frequent winter scenes painted by the Impressionists in the late 19th century. Although the works cannot be linked with particular cold winters, such images as *La Pie* (the magpie) by Claude Monet, in the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, captures as well as any picture the charm of a sunlit snowscape.

BILL BURROUGHS
© The Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

NINA RICCI
PARIS



Ricci Club
POUR HOMME

BRIEFING

Kirov coming to Edinburgh

LENINGRAD's Kirov Opera plans to attend next year's Edinburgh Festival, and plans are well advanced for the company to perform three or four works under its artistic director, the conductor Valery Gergiev, probably a feast of Mussorgsky including *Boris Godunov*, *Khovanshchina* and *Salammbô*. But a question mark hangs over whether Edinburgh's stage facilities are adequate. If not, concert performances will be presented. Meanwhile, the new Kirov production of Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, to be shared with Covent Garden, will first be seen here in a direct television relay from Leningrad, probably in July.

Positive figures

BRITISH cinema had a great year, even if the British film industry continued its seemingly terminal decline. Box-office revenues in Britain during 1990 were 12 per cent up on last year, according to new figures just published in *Moving Pictures International*.



Ghost idol: Patrick Swayze

The magazine's chart shows that the Top 100 films grossed £234 million, compared with £208m in 1989. Top performer of the year was *Ghost*, with that idol of the female teenage market, Patrick Swayze. That has taken £17m in just 10 weeks since its opening. *Pretty Woman* came second, with £11m. The top British film was *Shirley Valentine* (at No 11), beating *Memphis Belle* and *The Krays*. Evidence of the increasing popularity of foreign films is provided by the statistic that seven of them feature in the Top 100 (led by *Cinema Paradiso*), compared with only two last year.

Last chance...

The hero of *The Real Don Juan* casually kills more rivals than most of us have had hot pellas, so that when God forgives him he looks pretty miffed to be saved from hellfire. Jose Zorrilla's 19th-century version of the legend is the most popular play in the Spanish-speaking world, and Oxford Stage Company production at Riverside Studios gives it tremendous bounce, setting off the grave sincerity of John Michie's Don. Ranjit Bolt's witty couplets please the ear. Ends tomorrow (081-748 3354).

GALLERIES

Downhill all the way from his early glory

André Derain and Sheila Fell, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

Some sleeping reputations should be let lie. Admittedly it is difficult to know which, until the necessary research has been done, and often conventional wisdom does prove to be quite incorrect. But sometimes recently, a scholarly determination to test and overturn the accepted view has been carried to perverse lengths. The new show of Derain: *The Late Work* at the Oxford Museum of Modern Art is an egregious case in point.

Derain, as every art student knows, hit his peak very early on. The great moment in his career was in 1906-7, when he was in his mid-twenties. Infected by the then fashionable Fauve passion for brilliant colour, he painted a series of unforgettable images of the Thames which endowed drab old Westminster and the soot-blackened City with dazzling prismatic hues, saying more in the process about the painter's state of mind than about the prosaic reality he must have had before him. After this he had a light flirtation with Cubism, and then, following the first world war, heeded Cocteau's "recall to order" and returned to study of the Old Masters and a rather drab neo-academicism. Nearly all of his really interesting later work was marginal: book illustrations, theatrical design and so on.

That, anyway, has been the "official" view for many years now. Something very similar has been the official view of de Chirico, Emilio Bernard and several others who are supposed to have peaked prematurely and then gone into a long decline. It is not good that such blanket judgments should go unexamined. Fashion can play strange tricks with an artist's reputation, and some of the opinions which were standard 20 years ago look very bizarre now. So might it well be with Derain's later work. But alas, what the Oxford show appears to demonstrate conclusively is that earlier doubts about its value were very well founded.

At least this collection of Derain's work from the mid-Twenties onwards does clarify exactly what went wrong. The best work in the whole show is the earliest, "Arlequin et Pierrot" of 1924 (a perfect Cocteau-sponsored subject, incidentally). From then on it is all downhill. Warning should come in the first room, which contains a lot of rather feeble drawings of nudes. The problem with nearly all of them is that Derain just was not a very good draughtsman. Wavering between minute academic accuracy

and a more modern readiness to generalize and abstract, he constantly gives the impression that when he could not easily resolve the detail, he just fudged it.

With the classic Fauve Derains, draughtsmanship really does not matter: these are intensely painterly paintings, in which colour is all. But given the weakness of his drawing, it seems peculiarly ill-advised of him to take up a way of painting which is entirely built on draughtsmanship. In painting after painting of the human figure, it is clear that he does not have sufficient idea of how a head fits on to a body, or how a foot is related to a leg. If he did know, his technique was clearly not equal to the task of rendering these relationships convincingly. He never arrived at a coherent style where this would not matter.

Worst of all, his sense of colour is rigorously suppressed. The overall effect of the exhibition is dominated by slightly varying

'Derain just was not a very good draughtsman... when he could not easily resolve detail, he fudged it'

shades of toffee and bile. It is as though, offended at being taken for no more than a fancy dancer, he deliberately cut off his leg to prove he deserved to be taken more seriously. And what is left is, as a rule, culpably fuzzy and unresolved. One or two fanciful landscapes with figures call Doris Zinkeisen to mind, though by no means as good as Rex Whistler. Some rather smudgy Bacchanalian revels fatally lack animation. When, once or twice, a painting turns out right, like the Tate's "The Painter and his Family" of around 1939, its semi-primitive effectiveness seems to be quite hit-or-miss. Only the Rabelais woodcuts, where he had to return to areas of flat, bright colour, have any of the old spirit.

At least all the evidence is there, for the present generation to assess afresh. That is admirable, even if the results are disappointing. Derain can safely be put away for later generations to agonise over, if they will. On the other hand, Sheila Fell's day has clearly come. Since her early death in 1979 she has been neglected, for a variety of

reasons. She had belonged to a group — the "Kitchen sink" realists who showed at the Beaux Arts Gallery in the Fifties and early Sixties — which was then unfashionable, and her absence from the scene made her easy to overlook. But now the South Bank Centre has put together an admirable touring retrospective, and it has found its London home at the Royal Academy.

Derain had pretensions to being a great painter, and could not live up to them. Fell was obviously unconcerned with her standing in the world: she painted out of personal obsession, because she had to, and if her range was narrow she had perfect and complete control of it. Though there are some excellent portraits, essentially she was a landscape painter: specifically the landscapes of Cumbria, in and around her home town of Aspatria. She lived and worked most of her adult life in London, and seldom even visited Cumbria, but obviously her childhood surroundings, the grim streets of Aspatria and the unwelcoming hill farms, were always in her thoughts.

Though she was read as a realist at the time, from this distance it is clear she was nothing of the sort. She was a homegrown expressionist, who does not seem to have been influenced much by anybody, except perhaps Permeke. She is wonderful at finding the pattern underlying the hill farms, particularly when simplified and unified by snow. She is also brilliant at evoking the sights and colours of the brief harvest. But these are much more paintings about her feelings and her dreams than about external reality. Some of her most haunting works are the early paintings and large charcoal drawings, where the recurrent images of cattle, spires and snow achieve an almost Palmerish intensity and visionary gleam.

It is understandable that Sheila Fell should have slipped from mind, but in a world where the curiously similar Scot, Joan Eardley, has taken her place as a major figure, the same sort of recognition cannot be indefinitely withheld from her. Re-evaluations may sometimes be downward, but it is always invigorating to rediscover an artist whose stature grows with every viewing.

Derain: The Late Work. Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 72272) Tues-Sat 10-4, (Thurs to 9), Sun 2-4, closed Dec 25-26, until March 17.
Sheila Fell. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 4956) Daily 10-6, closed Dec 24-26, until Jan 20.



The best work in the whole show is the earliest: Derain's "Arlequin et Pierrot" of 1924, at Oxford

Madding or maddening?

John Russell Taylor investigates the criticisms levelled at the Royal Academy over its handling of the recent Monet exhibition

Amid the almost total ecstasy which the Royal Academy's recent Monet exhibition has inspired in British art-lovers, there have been a few dissenting voices. Very few of them have actually disapproved of the show itself (though one or two have complained that it was all repetition of the same few images), but quite a number have been unhappy with the way it was organised, and several of those complaints have found expression in letters to *The Times*.

The basic complaint is that the writers, however and whenever they visited the show, were not able to see the pictures in conditions they felt their entrance fee should have entitled them to. For some the problem was the crowds, which meant they could hardly see the pictures at all. For others it was the speed with which the crowd surged irresistibly from room to room, so that all opportunities of lengthy communing with genius were denied. For yet others it was the way the pictures were hung, too low to be seen over the heads of the crowds; they pointed out that in America, where the Monet exhibition was seen in Chicago and Boston, the paintings were hung much higher, thus keeping sight-lines clear for everyone.

Many American museums also have the advantage of size, with larger galleries for display and larger public spaces to accommodate waiting crowds. New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, for instance, uses advance ticket sales only when necessary but prefers to operate on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We regulate the crowd flow into exhibition spaces because we're worried about security, about the safety of the works on display and about crowd comfort," says John Ross, the museum's manager of public information. "But it's simpler for us logistically as our museum is extremely large. If we have a few hundred people waiting, they'll be inside out of the weather."

Furthermore, says Ross, "we hang pictures very high here, higher than you would hang them in your own house and higher than a number of other museums. And sometimes we move works of art to ease congestion. I have been to many exhibitions in London where it's truly crowded. We don't allow that kind of crowding. We prefer to maintain the viewing experience as a pleasant one."

For its part, the Royal Academy is now answering the criticisms of the Monet exhibition. Roger de Grey, academy president, points out that many critics in America did not like the height of the



Draw: "Poplars (Banks of the Epte)", 1891 by Claude Monet

paintings. De Grey, as a distinguished landscape painter himself, argues that the horizon in a landscape should not be far from the spectator's eye level, and believes that if the Monets had been so high in London, they would have been unreadable.

More difficult is the matter of crowding. One of the purposes of introducing timed ticketing for this show was to enable the numbers to be regulated. The academy decided on 600 as the maximum number to be allowed into the show at any one time; the show occupied six galleries, including one of double size, which works out at fewer than a hundred people to each gallery, not an unreasonable total.

The academy admits that there were teething troubles over the pre-sold tickets, but thinks they were sorted out early on in the exhibition's run. The academy is

proud of the fact that no one who did queue was turned away. The basic problem, according to de Grey, remains the paradox that people feel entitled simultaneously to complain about public apathy towards the arts on one hand and to complain about the side-effects of public enthusiasm on the other.

There may also be a bit of sour grapes, since usually the money made by the academy comes into play somewhere. As to that, de Grey says "we got more than half a million people through the show, far more than in either of the American venues. We did not put up the price of admission extravagantly. And finally it enabled us to pay off our overdraft. It is not exactly a fortune for us, though certainly useful. And most visitors, whatever their minor complaints, seem to have felt it was the experience of a lifetime. That can hardly be bad."

RECORDS & VIDEOS: ROCK & JAZZ

Bleeps and squirts

Unique 3: Jus' Unique (10 Records DKG 98)
Various: Biohythm 2 (Network BIOLE 2)

1990 WAS the year in which the government finally defined popular music. The definition, drafted in order to clarify franchise bidding for new radio channels, may prove to be a boon to us all. Now that we know what it is, we must also know what it is not.

Bleep music, for example — one of the crazes of the past 12 months — shares much in common with music once termed avant garde. Mostly emanating from North of Watford, bleep music deals in extremes. Electronic squirts and beeps comparable to the vocabulary of a state of the art telephone, are laid over hyper-active rhythm tracks and bass-lines so deep in pitch that they are almost inaudible; subtract that rhythm and what remains bears a strong resemblance to the sort of tape music once appreciated by a handful of pioneers.

Unique 3, a group with four or more members, hail from Bradford. Their bleeps have been in circulation for some time now and the group has already decided that bleeping has become redundant. This is a revolution of personal computers, relatively cheap software and versatile digital samplers installed in bedrooms; overheads are low, flexibility is high and the drive to innovate and then move on is relentless. In some respects, this brutal creative turnover has its drawbacks. Perhaps influenced by the virtually instantaneous obsolescence of the new technology, imaginative ideas are discarded as soon as they emerge from the underground into the mainstream.

Unique 3's two-record set tends to be more engaging when perched on the outer limits of pop: a reggae track, "Reality", has an oblique charm, at least for half of its length, thanks to a constant flypast of eccentric musical instruments, but the science-fiction instrumental such as "Phase 3" and "Code 0274" stand out as aural, somewhat unco-ordinated, evocations of fax machines and supermarket cash registers at play. Following the instructions on the record, I played the latter track at 33 1/3 rpm and found it to be at the wrong speed. The music has a tension

and sensuality that is lost at its correct speed and so I shall continue to ignore Unique 3's intentions. This sort of choice will be lost, incidentally, when vinyl is completely superseded by compact disc and tape.

The music may sound like electronic tills and bar codes readers but its ethos is puritanically non-commercial. Birmingham's Network Records specialises in electronic dance music, whether from Detroit or Sheffield, and has flourished with a release schedule that would have looked suicidally arcane just a few years ago. It's *Biohythm 2* is a collection of fairly typical material. The closest thing to a lyric is the brief speech fragment on Model 500's "Info World"; otherwise, this is music as pure sound, portraying nothing beyond a global computer network humming with activity.

DAVID TOOP

Miles Davis: *Miles in Paris* (Warner Music Vision 9317-7550-3)
Frank Sinatra: *The Reprise Collection* (Reprise 9-26340-2)

IF ONE moment sums up the lackadaisical quality of Miles Davis's current work, it comes some 50 minutes into his new video. As he crouches over his horn in mid-phrase on "Tutu", his designer sunglasses fall off.

There is an awkward pause. Guitarist Foley McCreary performs a neat catch and hands the spectacles back to Davis, who then saunters off towards the drum kit. No matter that he has not finished his solo. The music comes second to the fashion accessories.

The trumpeter has not released a live album since 1982. For those who need it, *Miles in Paris* fills the gap. Recorded in November of last year, the video sprinkles nine tunes amidst brief and largely unrevealing extracts from an interview.

Watching a video is the best way to catch Davis's concerts. The fast-forward button is a valuable antidote to the axe-hurricane of McCreary and the blaz-boards of Kai Akagi. Davis looks fit and healthy, but his embonchure is in only moderate shape. Once again, he rarely risks playing without his mute; the few solos played on open horn are alarmingly limp.



Unique 3: The number changes, but never less than a quartet

"Human Nature" and "New Blues" are wheeled out once again. The rest of the material is the most accessible music that Davis has played in a decade, and easily the least interesting. Judging by the evidence on this video, however, the audiences seem larger and more enthusiastic than ever.

While one or two bruised paparazzi might disagree, Frank Sinatra has been rather more successful than Davis at growing old gracefully. Containing four compact discs, the Reprise set documents his progress from 1960 to 1984.

Taken as a whole, the Capitol recordings of the Fifties remain the pinnacle of Sinatra's career. Yet the 81 tracks in this new collection — eight of them previously unissued — are proof that Sinatra was capable of sublime displays even as late as the mid-Seventies.

Highlights are too numerous to list, though the 1964 meeting with Count Basie on "The Best is Yet to Come" deserves special mention. From roughly the same period, the syrupy bossa nova arrangements of Claus Ogerman also have their admirers. And there is no avoiding the torch song which began life as "Comme d'Habitudo".

CLIVE DAVIS

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Christmas humbug, ancient and modern

The anonymous programme note for the Christmas concert on Wednesday in the Wigmore Hall suggested that nowadays we find it "difficult to appreciate the inextricable blend of sacred and secular passions in the 16th and 17th centuries", and yet surely the whole idea of the Christmas concert shows we have no such difficulty at all. Twice in the past week large audiences have piled into the hall to hear sacred and secular passions inextricably blended, in retellings of the Nativity story through the music of Marc-Antoine Charpentier and through readings and verse anthems of the Elizabethan-Jacobean period. When we can have concerts of Christmas music in July, then will be the time to talk about "our own secular society".

The Charpentier evening was in the care of William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, and was therefore a delight, the voices fresh-textured, with minimal vibrato and the extra brightness of Latin vowels sung (apparently authentically) as if they were

French, the instruments light and clear. It is perhaps the performers' piety that enables them to recreate this music of ornament without letting all the graces impede melodic flow or sound fussy. This is a very particular, even a very constrained repertoire, but these musicians perform it with immediacy and naturalness, as if speaking their own language.

It is a language with a high quotient of charm, though not always. The set of Advent antiphons, wisely interspersed here with Charpentier's instrumental arrangements of Christmas carols, include darker moments, besides taking the opportunity to show how changes can be rung on the same pattern of slow invoking followed by fast, triple-time expectation. There was also a flame-pure interpretation by a solo soprano of the elevation motet *Lauda Sion salvatorem* and a perky account of a miniature Epiphany drama in the oratorio *Cum nativus esset Jesus in Bethlehem*.

The biggest work was the Pas-

torale sur la Nativité de Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ, in which Charpentier's treatment of the Christmas story is not notably different from his handling of the myth of Actaeon: this is a frieze of beautifully executed moments in which, strange, but not terribly alarming, things happen between divine and human beings in an Arcadian landscape. Yet for all the sweetness and perfect etiquette, a kind of piety comes through, and this beautiful performance several times jolted one into remembering Messiaen.

Where Charpentier and Les Arts Florissants offered an aristocratic, classical Christmas, the seasonal feeling was altogether more homely and earthy with Red Byrd, who are not a Trotskyite rock band but a vocal ensemble willing to tackle new music as well as Monteverdi or, as here, English verse anthems. They make a point of striving for period pronunciation, which seems to mean a range of open vowels, split diphthongs and dense consonants,

sounding like a mosaic of West Country, Tyneside, Highlands, Irish and Canadian accents. Used as a spoken language, this can be persuasive: Richard Wistreich was particularly powerful in his pair of readings from a pre-King James text, the "Bishops' Bible".

But when it is sung, particularly by voices again avoiding vibrato (and by voices, in some cases, of no special finesse), one registers the effect as folk singing, and all kinds of consideration concerning class and tradition enter the debate along with historical accuracy and aesthetic rightness. It was good to hear Tomkins, Bull and Gibbons released from the usual cultivated tones, but not easy to know why it was good: the justification ought to be more than a variety of inverted snobbery. No worries, though, about the Rose Consort of Viols, with whose polyphonic clarity and superb grainy finish the raw voices of Red Byrd sounded surprisingly well.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

DANCE

Another bright star alights from the east

In 1961, when Rudolf Nureyev came West, he had to leap across a Paris airport barrier to seek political asylum. In 1970, in order to remain in the West, Natalia Makarova had to defect during the Kirov's London season. Four years later, Mikhail Baryshnikov had to outwit his KGB minders during a Soviet tour to Canada. Today all a Soviet dancer needs is a valid passport, the invitations to dance in the West are there to be had.

With glasnost having opened the floodgates, Soviet dancers are pouring across the border, seeking fresh artistic horizons with Western companies. Recent migrations include Irek Mukhamedov, the ex-Bolshoi star who has joined the Royal Ballet as a principal dancer; Nina Ananiashvili, Altyon Asymurayeva and Alexei Fadeychev are also appearing at Covent Garden, as guest artists. Scottish Ballet, too, has just announced that the Kirov's Galina Messa-teva is joining the Glasgow company as a principal dancer, while another Kirov dancer, Irina Chistiakova, is with London City Ballet, guesting in the title role of *Cinderella* at Sadler's Wells (London City Ballet already has two ex-Bolshoi principal dancers, Viktor Barykin and Stanislav Tchassov).

"The world is flooded with Russian dancers," says Ivan Nagy, artistic director of English National Ballet, who has recently signed the Estonian couple of Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur as full-time members of his company. "It's not anymore a unique thing, getting hold of a Russian dancer. I have lots of Russians auditioning for me. You have no idea — more Russians than English dancers, practically."

With so much Soviet talent to choose from, a Western ballet director can be especially selective, but certainly most would leap at the chance — as Nagy has done —

Soviet dancers find new artistic horizons in the West, says Yelena Pankova of the Kirov Ballet. Interview by Debra Craine

to have Yelena Pankova in their midst. Tomorrow night at the Festival Hall, the Kirov dancer adds her name to the list of Soviets abroad when she makes her debut with ENB, dancing the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*.

At 27, Pankova is one of the brightest stars in the Kirov's galaxy, her extraordinary lightness and deft footwork embodying the essential characteristics of the Kirov style: lyricism, musicality and a beautifully expressive upper body. Ever since her first performances in the West with the Kirov in 1987, she has been delighting critics and audiences alike.

One could wish for a more auspicious debut for her than Peter Schaufuss's muddled version of *The Nutcracker*, but if Nagy has his way, Pankova will be back. Despite the fact that he had never seen her on stage, Nagy was prepared to invite the Kirov dancer to be a resident guest artist on the basis of an audition. When he finally did see her on stage, he "loved her. I thought her performance was wonderful. She's very striking on stage. I love her proportion. I'm very happy she's in the company and I'm hoping we can come up with a repertoire that will interest her."

For the time being, Pankova will have to be satisfied with *The Nutcracker*, but since the Kirov does not have Tchaikovsky's Christmas classic in its repertoire, this will be her first appearance in the ballet. "I always dreamt about dancing *The Nutcracker* because of the music which is played as an orchestral suite in the Soviet Union," says Pankova, speaking through an interpreter.

"But for me, to dance one pas de deux in a whole

evening is not enough dancing. As a spectator I love the performance as a whole, but as a performer I wish I could have more steps."

Nonetheless, dancing abroad for the first time as a guest artist allows Pankova to "learn new steps, new repertoire. I can see other dancers, learn from them". Exchange between theatres in the Soviet Union is almost unknown so dancers who remain in the country have little chance to experience other companies. "I think it's impossible to have a closed mind in dance," Pankova says. "The Vaganova [Kirov] school is wonderful, but you still need feedback from other dancers in other places."

As the Soviet government cases up on foreign travel restrictions, more dancers are free to tour abroad. "Before glasnost, there was a commission of party members who asked political questions of the dancers before they

were allowed to go on tour," she says. "Now there is no commission."

Pankova, now in her tenth season with the Leningrad-based company, would like to work more as a guest artist outside the Soviet Union, but "my basic work is with the Kirov. I'd like to remain as a guest artist only on a temporary basis when I'm invited. Three months would be fine; longer and they would fire me."

Part of the reason some dancers leave the Soviet Union on a permanent basis is simply to escape the rigours of daily life there. As a privileged member of the Kirov company, Pankova's lifestyle is better than most. But still the economic problems are felt.

"It's worse than it was," she says. "In Leningrad, it's very bad, the food situation. Dancers are better paid in the Soviet Union so we have more money, but food is rationed for everyone." If she brings food home, she adds, it will be to show her family what edible riches are available here.

Yelena Pankova stars in *The Nutcracker* tomorrow night at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800).



Yelena Pankova: "The Vaganova school is wonderful, but you still need feedback from other dancers in other places."

ARTS FUNDING

Speedy enhancing or quick tarnish?

Simon Tait asks the Arts Council's secretary general to explain the funding decisions announced earlier this week

Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal Stratford East, was one of many to express bemusement this week. "I'd love to know where they plucked that figure from," he said, on hearing that his theatre will be receiving £75,000 for each of the next three years from the Arts Council's new £22.5 million enhancement fund.

The plucking process, both of beneficiaries and of amounts, was "hasty", said other observers. Some also found it arbitrary, or downright inexplicable. But "speedy" is the word preferred by Anthony Everitt, the council's secretary general.

The enhancement fund was introduced on November 9 by David Mellor, then the arts minister. It would operate in addition to the Arts Council's main fund, help arts organisations tackle financial difficulties and "maintain the excellence of their work". Everitt and Peter Palumbo, the chairman, were told to draw up objectives and criteria for enhancement. The formula Mellor approved was that grants should go to the best organisations in terms of artistic excellence, and should be available, over three years, to enhance business and financial planning. There should also be a challenge "where appropriate" for matching funds from other sectors: private, endowment or local authority.

The Arts Council departments and the 12 regional arts associations were given just two weeks to come up with recommendations. They offered 142. On December 10 a think tank of five, including Everitt and two Arts Council members, halved the list and divided it into three sections: 43 clients whose quality and needs were such that they must benefit those that were "excellent and deserving but not in the first order of need" (both the National Theatre and South Bank Centre were in this category, says Everitt); and rejects.

"It's not true to say that we've focused on flagships," says Everitt. "The list is a mix of community work and teaching. But inevitably, because the bigger clients cost more, they need more if the enhancement is going to work. There are dance companies such as Kokoma and the Green Candle community company, touring theatre companies such as Talawa, and the biggest poetry group,

Bloodaxe, from the north-east on it."

The South Bank gave the biggest howl of indignation. According to Everitt, it was not on the list because its plan showed that it was already going to get itself out of financial difficulties without compromising its artistic programme.

Everitt admits that the Arts Council has not been doing its job properly in the past. "Maybe the Arts Council was wrong in the Seventies and Eighties in not making choices, spreading the butter too thinly. What the Arts Council has to do is make judgements."

As to the need to match this extra money with other funding, only ten of the 45 are being issued with a "hard" challenge: they must get the same amount from elsewhere or they get nothing from the fund. However, the scheme might again fuel fears among leading business sponsors that their sponsorship was being used to replace, rather than supplement, state subsidy. There is also confusion about what will happen at the end of the three years. Although the intention is that the enhancements become consolidated into the revenue funding, that leaves the question of whether matching funds also get consolidated.

Welsh National Opera has said it will cease operating after next July, if it receives no increase in its funding from the Arts Council. The company was expecting a total grant of around £500,000 from the council's enhancement fund, but was not even among the 45 companies chosen for the fund. Opera North received £685,000 from the enhancement fund; English National Opera received £600,000.

Although it is receiving £175,000 from the enhancement fund's allocation to the Welsh Arts Council, WNO maintains that since it does 70 per cent of its touring in England, it should have been given an additional allocation, in its own right.

A company spokesman said that there would now be a gap of £325,000 in WNO's 1991-92 budget. If further negotiations with the Arts Council did not produce an increase in funding, a meeting on January 21 of the finance committee of WNO's board would recommend that the company closes in July.

Some people spend all their lives believing in Father Christmas.

To many people with a mental handicap we are Father Christmas. At MENCAP we're working all year round to help people lead happy and fulfilled lives. As well as making every Christmas their best Christmas we help them with things like training, housing and employment opportunities. With a donation from you, we'll be able to continue being Father Christmas to all of them. Please send a donation to Mencap, Freepost, London EC1B 1AA.



Falling foul of the original

STEPHEN MARKESON

The Nutcracker

THE first of this season's many Nutcracker productions is a revival of Peter Wright's staging for the Royal Ballet. This is the one that tries to reproduce as much as possible of the original choreography by Ivanov, but fits it to an opaque new libretto.

By rights, it should be the one with the best playing of the Tchaikovsky score, but I sincerely hope this will not prove to be the case. However, I trust that during the run, the too-muddled scenes changes, the disastrous lighting and the botched stage tricks will be put right, although I fear that Julia Frevelyan Oman's drab designs (so completely out of touch with the music) are past praying for.

Thanks largely to the costumes, nobody except the principals has any chance to stand out (although David Bintlley's Drosselmeyer, at the matinee, was crossly incisive). Two couples appeared at yesterday's performances. Viviana Durante and Bruce Sansom made their debuts at the matinee. They let the difficulties of the partnering show, although they surmounted most of them. The Prince's solo Sansom's neat, precise style; Durante goes well with the Sugar Plum Fairy's solo, but she is less at home in this than in a role with drama and character.

I had expected that to be true also of Irak Mukhamedov, making his first appearance as the Prince in the evening, but he and Lesley Collier approached their part de



Viviana Durante as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Bruce Sansom as the Prince in *The Nutcracker*

deux in a way that brought out the depth of Tchaikovsky's music, as well as its glitter, and they shaped their dancing with a combination of grandeur and radiance.

Mukhamedov dances a different version of the solo: at least

partly derived from Vainonen's Soviet production, with fewer, bigger steps, which enables him to present himself more classically than in other Covent Garden roles. But (as in *La Bayadere*, it is the conjunction of him and

Collier that produces the full effect: two artists who, from different sources, understand the classical tradition and can make it their own.

JOHN PERCIVAL

The Horse and his Boy

Lyric, Hammersmith

ONE of the two adaptations of C.S. Lewis's Narnia novels currently playing in Hammersmith, *The Horse and his Boy* is an altogether more handsome production than its companion piece. Evocative lighting (Dave Horn) makes the most of Simon Ash's settings, infinitely better at suggesting oriental splendour — from distant mountain tops to carpeted selling kiosks — than the perpetual winter of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The costumes by Mark Bailey provide sumptuous sparkle.

This is the story with a dash of Arab, featuring talking horses, a runaway noble woman, fiendish Eastern aggression and a fisher-lad who turns out to be a long-lost prince. Shasta was found on the seashore as a baby and brought up by an old fisherman whose more distressing characteristics include his beard's tendency to slip down round his neck like a woolly muffler in moments of high excitement. No wonder he enviously salutes haughty Prince Radashad whose appendage projects undignifiedly from his chin like a strip of fed fly paper. And no

wonder they worship the great God Tash.

The two steeds are beautifully stylised (horse heads and tight, as from a decorative version of *Equus*). If the buddies are near-Eastern, the goodies are vaguely Austro-Hungarian in uniform and Welsh in accent, except for Queen Susan whose barely thigh-covering gypsyism seems aimed at the older members of the audience. In the interval, flouting the rigid etiquette of his profession, your critic consulted his expert companions. Amelia, aged 10, wondered whether those unfamiliar with the book would be able to follow the plot. Florence, 13 next week, dismissively announced that television was better anyway. Thomas, at 15 a bit older for the story but an enthusiastic backstage worker in school theatricals, worried about the validity of the Christian symbolism in the Lion and Aslan.

Certainly there are arid patches of talk in Richard Williams's production and the stylised battle may not satisfy a generation reared on more explicit violence, but there are spirited performances from Felicity Duncan (the runaway) and Kieron Smith (Shasta). By the final curtain, the panel of experts professed satisfaction.

MARTIN HOYLE

Reduced Shakespeare Company

Lilian Baylis

THIS paper is something of an old con. The RSC, as the company's three American performers naturally called themselves, promise to present all 37 of the Bard's plays in an hour and a half.

What the lads could have achieved in this line is suggested by their *Julius Caesar*. On strides the balding, though young, Reed Martin wearing something that could be a toga enveloped in a cloak. Adam Long warns him of the Ides of March. Caesar looks puzzled; the date is explained; "But that's today" and Caesar collapses with sword stuck under his armpits. All this sketch needs is someone to have a go at burying the body — Antony's opening line is well enough known for that — and five tragic acts are reduced to one minute of *BC44* and *All That*, applying the principle of *Seller and Yeaman* devised for history: Literature is what you can remember.

But Long, Martin and their bearded colleague Jess Borgeson use their razor on only one other play, *Tit Andronicus*, done quite nimbly as a cookery show,

and the feeble pun, applicable to other plays but not to this, reveals their scattergun approach. All the comedies get shoved together in a recitation of a crazy plot concerning shipwrecked identical triplets in a wood that is content merely to squish the titles together. Pretending that Chekhov wrote *The Seagull* or *Three Uncles in an Orchard* might raise a faint smile but no more.

Performances, naturally, adopt the Coarse Acting style, slapping the chest for each mention of "love", thrusting the pelvis for "loins", reining back a horse for "woe" (goddit). Brilliant spoof Shakespeare has been written by Frayn, Stoppard and Miles Kingston, but this RSC effort is nowhere in that class.

The last half-hour is devoted to *Hamlet*, and there is a sort of crazy satisfaction to be derived from the scene where the audience is divided into three for a workshop to motivate Ophelia's mad scream. One section shouts: "Get thee to a nunnery!", another, "Point an inch thick!", while the third yells "Cut the crap, Hamlet, my biological clock is ticking, and I want babies NOW!"

At some point, Borgeson tells a whingeing Long, "We don't have to do justice to it, we just have to do it." Untrue.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Hothouse Flowers

Wembley Arena

THE original members of Hothouse Flowers used to earn their keep busking on the pavements of Dublin, which may explain why they look more comfortable than most on the expense of stage at Wembley Arena. Having learnt to perform in a tight huddle, nowadays the five of them seem to enjoy keeping their distance from one another, perhaps because it smacks of success.

Hence, lead singer Liam O'Maolai, who had access to a

grand piano stage-centre and an electric one up behind his bass player, also paid visits to keyboards situated on raised podiums stage left and right. In terms of pure topography, the ground he had to cover to get to one of these outposts was the equivalent of transplanting himself to the next-door busking site. It would have come as no great surprise if a portable keyboard had cropped up at the mid-auditorium mixing desk.

Having literally covered a lot of ground since their days on the street, Hothouse Flowers have also come a long way musically. Buskers, after all, do not play big-venue rock, though in remembering their humble folk roots the

band produce an unusually acceptable version of it, and help to keep the look of minstrels by their clothes baggy and their hair shaggy. Unlike their more dextrous musical cousins, U2, Hothouse Flowers retain the hint of a rascally Poughish beat in their more pumped-up stadium stompers such as "Giving it all away" and "People".

O'Maolai's Irish voice combines the beef of Bono with the quivering frailty of Feargal Sharkey, and adapted easily to the boisterous repertoire, though a bit occasionally confused by the musical mixture on offer. When the singer began a long encore with an unaccompanied bilingual ren-

dition of "Carraigferus", a traditional Irish ballad and a tricky tune to carry towards the end of a rock show, he was obliged to introduce a distinctly unGaelic shuffling sound into the lyrics to attract full attention.

This was less necessary in the band's own slow numbers, the likes of "Sweet Marie" and "Don't Go"; dreamy songs which could be accused of taking themselves too seriously, if their audience did not take them seriously, too. By the end of a two-hour show, which is good going for a two-album band, they were more than entitled to make all the noise they could muster.

JASPER REES

CURRENT

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (19: Janice Pennington's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame. Remot. (01-497 8402).

BLUE STEEL (19: Tough, blood-splattered police thriller with a feminist slant. Janice Pennington. Remot. (01-497 8402).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (19: Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American west of the 1920s. Remot. (01-497 8402).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (19: Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson. Remot. (01-497 8402).

DEATH WARRANT (19: Action video. Remot. (01-497 8402).

FLATLINERS (19: Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students. Remot. (01-497 8402).

THE FRESHMAN (19: Quirky, uneven spoof of The Godfather, with Martin Scorsese as the master who has a New York film student (Matthew Broderick) as a delivery boy. Remot. (01-497 8402).

GHOST (19: Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Remot. (01-497 8402).

GOODFELLAS (19: Martin Scorsese's gangster epic. Remot. (01-497 8402).

HENRY AND JUNE (19: Anais Nin's passionate affair with Henry Miller. Remot. (01-497 8402).

BOOKENDS: Disappointingly empty tale of two literary blockheads. Remot. (01-497 8402).

THE BOYS NEXT DOOR: Tom Gutter's patronising view of the mentally ill. Remot. (01-497 8402).

THE COUNTRY WIFE: Appalling heavy-handed, old-fashioned tale. Remot. (01-497 8402).

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's hauntingly beautiful play. Remot. (01-497 8402).

FIVE GUYS NAMED MARY: Marvellous comedy. Remot. (01-497 8402).

GASPARIN: John Gorton's comedy. Remot. (01-497 8402).

HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Gordon Gahan's comedy. Remot. (01-497 8402).

INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty musical. Remot. (01-497 8402).

THE NUTCRACKER: Three families. Remot. (01-497 8402).

CONSIDERABLE: The London City Ballet. Remot. (01-497 8402).

THE NUTCRACKER: Three families. Remot. (01-497 8402).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (C) on release across the country.

Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2626)

Screen on the Green (01-226 3203)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely (01-722 3303/3304)

Whitely

CHANNEL 4

10.25 News (Oracle) and weather 10.35 LWT News
10.40 Crime Monthly introduced by the Rovers
11.40 Golf: PGA Tour 90. Action from the Mazda champions tournament
12.00am Film: Nightwings (1981) starring Sylvester Stallone, Billy Dee Williams, Lindsey Wagner and Rutger Hauer. The story of two tough New York police sergeants who are reassigned to a special unit which is trained to deal with the most vicious, efficiently-made thriller which helped the Dutch actor Hauer to international fame. Directed by Bruce Malmuth. Followed by News headlines
12.35 Crisis at Christmas. Anna Massey narrates a moving documentary about the plight of London's homeless, includes interviews with some of the young inhabitants of "Caribbean City" under Waterloo Bridge
2.30 Cinema/Attractions. The latest news and behind-the-scenes reports from the American box office
3.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror (1979) starring Robert Forster, Alvin Karpis and Gary Busey. A made-for-television drama about a researcher who goes to any lengths to have himself cloned and finds he is fighting an uncontrollable monster for the affections of his wife. A poor attempt at a psychological thriller, which fails to deliver. Directed by Gus Trikonis.
4.50 Cartoon Time
5.05 ITN Christmas Gift
5.55 AITN Morning News with Anne Leachurs. Ends at 6.00

Jealousy rears its head: Rex Harrison and Linda Darnell (1.00am)

1.00am Film: Unfaithfully Yours (1948, b/w).

● **CHOICE:** This stylish and imaginative comedy from Preston Sturges made little impact at the box-office and was undervalued for years, but now it's back on the radar of the market of *Silver Screen Classics*. But time has treated the film kindly, and it is not quite on a level with Sturges's best work, its subversive wit can still sting. In one of his most effective film parts Rex Harrison plays an irascible conductor who becomes convinced that his wife (Linda Darnell) has been unfaithful. His jealousy comes to a head during a concert and as he conducts *Rossini*, *Wagner* and *Tchaikovsky* he imagines various ways of getting his own back. As usual Sturges the director is marvelously served by Sturges the writer, with a sense of drama and a sense of style, and a satirical edge. The film and the gravel-voiced Lionel Stander offer stalwart support. The film was disastrously remade in the Eighties with Dudley Moore and Nastassia Kinski. Ends at 2.55

**Sesame Street 10.25 Film:
House* 12.00 Special 12.10**

USA America's Top Ten 4:20 *Com/Humor*
The 100 Greatest American Movies of All
Time

3-26-TEES
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1.50pm-1.50p North
Carolina
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30pm Barbara 6.00 North
Carolina
3. *Top Gun* 1.30p-7:00p On the Wild Side 10:40
Carolina
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p The Coal
Miner's Daughter 2:30p-3:00pm Carolina/Humor
6. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
7. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-1-MASTER
North Carolina
1. *North Carolina* 1:20pm-1:50p 4.50p Annual
Review
2. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
3. *Sports Illustrated* 1:00pm-1:30p
4. *Kelly* 12:05pm-1:00p
5. *Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
6. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
7. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-2-WORKSHIRE
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-3-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-4-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-5-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-6-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-7-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-8-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-9-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-10-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-11-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-12-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-13-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-14-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-15-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-16-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of America* 5:00p-5:55p
Carolina/Humor
8. *Christmas Gift* 8:00p

4-17-NC
North Carolina
1. *My Darling Clementine* 1:20pm-2:00p Live
2. *Barbie* 6:30pm-6:30p
3. *Top Gun* 1:30p-7:00p
4. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* 1.30p-7:00p
5. *Peter Dinklage* 10:20p-11:00p
6. *The Coal Miner's Daughter* 2:30p-3:00pm
7. *The Darker Side of*

RADIO 4

Stream on FM
5.00 Shipping Forecast: 6.00
News Briefing: Weather, 6.10
Morning Today: 6.25 *Pavey for the People* with the Rev Peter Reid 6.30 *Today*, with Peter Hobday and Sue MacGregor, 6.40 *Today's News*, 7.00-7.45, 8.30 *News* 6.55, 7.55, 8.57 *Weather* 9.00
06.00 *David Ireland Dicks:* Sue Lawley with the Duchess of Kent (a) (c)
45.10 Let it Be: *Sandwiched*: The third of four tracks by David Bevan, who traverses the island in the company of Ian Anderson.
00.00 *News, Special Assignment:* Reports from BBC correspondents at home and abroad
1.30 Morning Story: The Slumber King, from British Folk Tales, by Kevin Crowley
Holland: Read by Andy Hockley
4.45 Daily Service, with the choir of St Andrew's Church, Sandenwood, South Africa (a)
.00 *News:* Friday Lives: Joanna Buchan with compelling stories about people and the lives they lead (a)
00.00 *Newskit:* You and Yours with John Lewis
2.50pm The Food Programme:
Derek Cooper samples Swedish Christmas foods, and discusses the latest taking place in the way food and drink are produced 12.55 *Weather*
00.00 World at One with Nick Clarke
4.40 The Archers (f) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
00.00 Women's Hour: Jenni Mifs presents the programme from Bristol; includes a discussion on the possibility of package holidays in space with the next 20 years
Caroline Walkdenberg of the Priory Hall Cookery School gives advice on Christmas trees; there is an item on the new Christmas story by Ben Birt; and Wicome Salmon, an independent film maker, talks about his recent experiences in Romania
00.00 *News:* Classic Serial: The Forsythe Chronicles. A 23-part adaptation of John Galsworthy's saga, narrated by Nick Bogarde (t2) (a) (c)
00.00 *News*

4.05 Tea Junction: Patrick Hannan and guests reflect on the week's events. Last programme in the series
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes an interview with guitarist Cat Altman; a review, and an interview, with Adam Wiszniewski, whose retrospective exhibition is at the Frutkiner Gallery in Edinburgh; a review of Michael Levey's book *The Soul of the Eye*; and poets Wendy Cope, William Kay and Gavin Ewart read Christmas poems (a)
5.00 PM, with Vinnie Singleton
5.10 Shipping Forecast 5.55 *Weather*
6.00 Six O'Clock News: Financial markets
6.30 Going Places: In this week's edition of the transport magazine, Jonathan Marcus discovers what to do when buying an aeroplane
7.00 *News* 7.05 The Archers
7.23 Pick of the Week (a)
8.00 Questions? From Burton, Derbyshire, Brian Redhead is joined by Diane Abbott, MP; by Chris Chelmer, MP, Minister for Overseas Development; Shirley Williams, Professor of Electoral Politics at Harvard University; and Germaine Greer
8.50 Stop Press: Sharna MacDonald sends a personal note from her holiday in Greece
9.15 Kaleidoscope: In the Faros. Paul Allen visits the Farnes Islands, where the British have preserved their Nordic heritage of painting, music and writing (a)
9.45 Letter from America by Alastair Campbell
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: In My Wildest Dreams, by Leslie Thomas (f & t2)
11.00 *News:* Ending: Bill Wallis, David Tate and Sally Grace present a satirical review of the week's news (a)
11.25 The Financial Week
11.45 *News:* Ending: With the help of the BBC sound archives, chronologist Mick Kelly examines the first of our weather. In the final of the programmes, he recalls the surge of 1953 in East Angles (f)
12.00-12.30 *News:* Incl 12.20 *Weather* 12.33 Shipping Forecast

REQUIREMENTS: Radio 1: 1053khz/255m; 1088khz/275m/FM497 8.9.93 Radio 2: 95.9-96.02, Radio 3: 1219.0-12.24, Radio 4: 90.9-92.2, Radio 4+1: 198.0h/157.5m FM 90.9-92.2, Radio 5: 153.0-153.1, Radio 5+1: 153.0-153.1, Jazz FM 102.2, LBC: 115.2khz/281m, FM 103.7, Capital: 104.2khz/191m, FM 95.9, GLR: 145.8khz/230m, FM 94.8, Melody FM 104.9.

Week 10.30	12.30p
News 12.30am	Word
Frank Bough	Farmen

[illegible]

1992-2000

*A pre - lunch guest
to really stimulate your appetite....*

NOILLY PRAT
SPECIAL FRENCH DRY

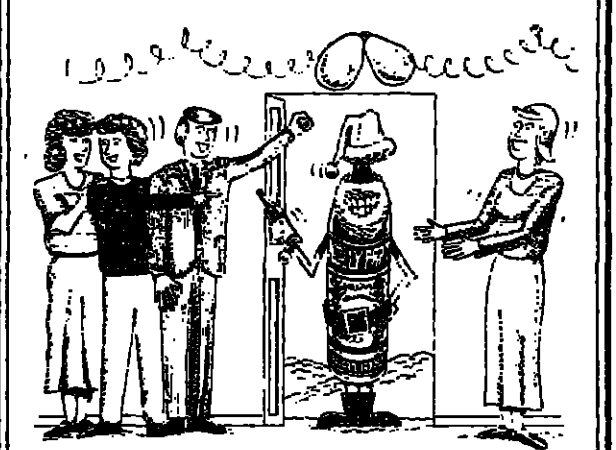
Noilly Prat is l'aperitif definitif!

Before lunch, before dinner: the delicious, dry, rounded, taste of Noilly Prat cleanses the palate and stimulates the appetite like no other aperitif.

Fine wines matured in oak for 3 years in the sun-drenched South of France, enriched with a secret blend of more than 40 herbs, produce the unique taste.

Experience Noilly Prat today: simply chilled or with ice. And remember when you order, the name *does* rhyme with cat.

FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD.



*A pre - lunch guest
to stimulate your appetite...*

[illegible]

...ore dinner: the delicious, dry, rounded,

other aperitif.

when you order, the name *dear* rhymes w

DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-28
● LAW 26
● YOUR OWN BUSINESS 29
● MOTORING 31
● SPORT 32-38

BUSINESS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 21 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Electricity's pulling power makes societies suffer

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies suffered a net outflow of £308 million last month as a result of the electricity flotation, and this month's figure could be worse. In the first week of December, societies reported a greater outflow than for the whole of last month.

November was the first month that building society withdrawals exceeded deposits since July 1989, when Abbey National converted to a public company. The £308 million was the largest monthly

outflow since September 1986, when the TSB was floated.

Mark Boleat, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The electricity issue was several times over-subscribed and applications have therefore been sharply scaled back. Accordingly, much of the money withdrawn will be reinvested in societies as applicants have their cheques returned. Inflows should be further boosted over the coming months as a substantial number of small investors will probably sell their shares and invest

the proceeds in societies.

"However, inflows from this source will not be significant in December because most electricity investors will be unable to sell their shares until they receive their interim share certificates due to be posted on or before December 19. The Christmas period and its likely disruptive impact on the postal service suggest that shares will not be sold until the new year. There will be a time lag, although much shorter, before cheques returned to disappointed applicants are reinvested in societies." Mr

Boleat expected the introduction of tax-exempt special savings accounts in January would also boost savings figures.

Mortgage lending increased for the third month in succession, with net new commitments up £340 million to £3,858 million in November. Gross lending increased £144 million to £3,825 million.

Net new commitments were still 14 per cent lower than in the same month last year and gross advances almost 12 per cent lower.

The housing market was already in the

doldrums at the end of 1989, after a series of mortgage rate increases.

Mr Boleat said: "Unless base rates drop sufficiently to allow a one-point reduction in mortgage rates, the mortgage and housing markets will remain subdued."

● The unit trust industry recorded a net inflow of £51 million in November, and funds under management increased by £323 million to £46.1 billion. Gross sales were £131.1 million down on the October figure and repurchases remained at the October level.

ECC amends Georgia Kaolin offer

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ECC Group has re-negotiated its earlier planned \$520 million purchase of the industrial minerals concern Georgia Kaolin in America from Asca Brown Boveri (ABB), thus avoiding possible American anti-monopoly moves.

The amended deal, originally struck in May, follows extensive talks with America's justice department and means ECC now pays \$340 million for only certain assets of Georgia Kaolin.

Andrew Teare, ECC's chief executive, says the amended deal is suit advantageous and gives ECC ownership of 130 million tons of kaolin reserves. It brings the group strategic advantages in the world of industrial minerals and funding should not dilute ECC's earnings.

The group continues to sell non-core interests as part of its re-organisation programme, and so far has raised \$53 million from asset sales. Additional proceeds are expected shortly.

ECC, formerly English China Clays, is changing its year end from September to end-December, and will be reporting for a 15-month period in March.

Georgia Kaolin produces pigments for a variety of industrial applications, the most important of which is paper manufacturing.

ABB, the seller, will retain Georgia Kaolin's operations known as Dry Branch, southwest of the properties being sold. Mr Teare said ECC originally wanted to acquire all three plants, and had fought off intense international competition before signing the original, but conditional, agreement with ABB in May. At that time, analysts were concerned at the high price ECC was prepared to pay for Georgia, a price nearly 17 times historic earnings. Mr Teare said "the world has changed since May".

Tempos, page 25

IMI stake raised to 41.5%

IMI, the engineering group, says it has 41.5 per cent of Birmingham Mint shares under its control. Since raising its offer to 95p on Wednesday, IMI has acquired 36.7 per cent of its target's shares in the market and a further 4.76 per cent acceptance. The proposed £13.6 million takeover has been cleared by the Office of Fair Trading.

Kelt still talking

Kelt Energy, the highly geared independent oil company, is continuing talks with its bankers, owed almost \$330 million, after failing to attract substantial offers for its principal assets.

Tempos, page 25

Flextech rises

Flextech, the oil services and cable and satellite television group, made pre-tax profits of £3.1 million (£2.2 million) in the six months to end-September. The interim dividend is up 39 per cent to 6.4p.

Tempos, page 25

Bank lending up £7.5bn as recession bites

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANK of England figures that showed a huge £7.5 billion rise in bank and building society lending in November caught the financial markets by surprise, arousing fears that credit is out of control again.

But, after second thoughts, the leading component of the money supply figures was read as further evidence of deepening recession, with companies forced into a degree of "distress borrowing".

This reinforced the message contained in M0, the narrow money supply measure targeted by the Treasury. This showed annual growth of 3.1 per cent in November, down from a seasonally adjusted 4 per cent in October, reflecting the dramatic slowdown in consumer spending.

Weekly notes data pointed to M0 dropping into the bottom half of its 1-5 per cent target range this month. In the week to December 19, notes, the bulk of M0, were 2.6 per cent up on the equivalent week last year.

Although the deceleration in M0 would earlier have justified a cut in base rates, membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism has made sterling, still weak, the main guide for monetary policy. The bank and building

society lending figure, M4 lending, was far larger than the City's expectation of £4 billion. The original October rise of £4.6 billion had been adjusted to £6.8 billion. New adjustments have boosted the data, drawing a new leading profile for the year.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Midland Montagu, said that while the new adjustment explained most of the surge in lending, it left about £1 billion of the November increase unexplained. The adjusted series now showed M4 lending falling steeply from February to September, but starting to rise since in a "marked turn in trend".

He attributed the underlying rise to distress borrowing by companies, singling out transport, property, hotels and food and drink as sectors borrowing most.

Separately, Banking Information Service figures showed total clearing bank lending to the private sector rising about £4 billion after seasonal adjustment in November, up from an upwards-revised £2 billion in October, which was initially given as a small fall. But the BIS was reluctant to interpret the underlying trend, saying the seasonal adjustment involved over £3 billion.

The unadjusted figures showed typically City sectors to be the biggest borrowers. Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, saw the data indicating that the banks are continuing to support troubled firms, but said he expected them to have to "pull the rug" from under their clients in the non-too-distant future.

Lending to leasing companies increased by £500 million in November, to securities firms by £190 million, and to other financial institutions by £238 million. Personal lending was up £188 million, following a small fall in October, with house purchases accounting for only £45 million of the total.

Credit card borrowing, which showed a sharp increase in the latest consumer credit figures, was £48 million higher.

The gloomy picture of the British economy seen in the official figures is not alleviated by a report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which urges the Chancellor not to cut taxes in the budget for fear of stoking up inflation. But while it sees the economy stagnating

through next summer, with a 0.5 per cent decline in GNP in the second half this year, it expects a return to 0.8 per cent growth in the first half next year, giving full-year growth of 0.7 per cent, broadly in line with the Chancellor's autumn statement.

In 1992, growth climbs back to 1.9 per cent, leaving Britain below the OECD average of 2.5 per cent. Unemployment is expected to rise from this year's 5.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent next year and 6.6 per cent in 1992.

The report says it would seem desirable that the fiscal stance, steering the economy through the balance between public spending and taxation, should not be eased in coming months.

It meanwhile sees membership of the ERM offering potentially great benefits, but describes it as an "ambitious strategy" for Britain, implying a medium-term commitment to bringing inflation down and keeping it there.

● First National Bank of Chicago, one of America's largest commercial banks, became the country's first lending institution to cut its prime lending rate in almost a year, after this week's move by the Federal Reserve Board to stimulate a weakening economy by lowering its discount rate (Susan Elliott writes from Washington).

First National said it would immediately lower its prime rate to 9.5 per cent from 10 per cent. Financial analysts expect other big banks to follow suit, despite an initial reluctance to diminish their profits by cutting the benchmark loan rate.

The move followed a report from the Commerce Department showing that American business production is expected to increase by a revised marginal inflation-adjusted 0.4 per cent next year, the weakest annual rate in five years.

In a television interview,

Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, declined to use the word "recession" to describe the US economy "because it conjures up in a lot of people's minds some final, awful ending to the growth and job creation we've had". He said the country was entering a cyclical downturn that would end next year.

Comment, page 25

OECD kick-start, page 25

Stock market, page 26



Freed on bail: Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's chairman, returns to his Mayfair home yesterday after producing £2 million

Power to cost more after rise in levy

By PHILIP BASSETT

ELECTRICITY prices are set to rise after a decision by the power industry watchdog to increase the levy designed to compensate the electricity industry for having to use higher-cost nuclear power.

Through the electricity price rise flowing from the increase in the fossil fuel levy will be marginal, the fact that the levy has to be increased at all runs counter to government claims that it will decline over the next eight years. The levy was introduced by the government as part of its privatisation programme for the electricity industry with the aim of bridging the gap between the cost of generating electricity from nuclear and fossil-fuel power stations.

When John Wakeham, the energy secretary, earlier this year announced that the levy would be fixed at 10.6 per cent for 1990-91, he forecast that it would be cut by about a third over the next eight years. But Professor Stephen Littlechild, director-general of the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), said yesterday that because of shortfalls in the levy this year, the levy for 1991-92 would be 11 per cent - an increase of 3.7 per cent.

Fax message helps free Nadir for Christmas

By STEPHEN LEATHER

A FAX machine helped Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck, walk free from prison yesterday afternoon after he finally produced the £2 million in cash he needed for his record bail.

Officials at Bow Street magistrates court sent a fax message to James Perriss, the governor of London's Wormwood Scrubs jail, confirming that the Turkish Cypriot-born businessman had met his bail conditions.

Normally release documents have to be delivered to

the prison by hand, but Mr Nadir's papers were faxed to the prison after being signed by magistrates so that he could spend Christmas at home. The court is closing for the holiday period and officials would not have been able to process his bail papers until after the break.

Mr Nadir, aged 47, who faces 18 charges of theft and false accounting involving £25 million, was allowed to leave by a contractor's entrance at the side of the prison in a Datsun mini-cab so that he could avoid reporters and

photographers waiting outside. He was taken to his Mayfair townhouse where he met his former wife Aysegül who had put up £500,000 to bail him.

Mr Nadir, who has consistently denied wrongdoing, was arrested on his return to Britain on Saturday by police attached to the Serious Fraud Office which was investigating his fresh fruit-to-electronics company.

He spent five days in custody, three of them in a tiny shared cell in the Victorian jail.

Mr Nadir was remanded until January 28, but the case is not expected to be ready for commitment by then. His £3.5 million bail was set by Sir David Hopkin, chief metropolitan magistrate, at Bow Street magistrates court on Monday. Mr Nadir was required to provide sureties of £1.5 million, which have been promised, and £2 million in cash which had to be deposited with his solicitors.

Mr Nadir must live and sleep at his home at Aldford Street, Mayfair, report daily to Savile Row police station and surrender all of his passports "British and otherwise" to police. He is also forbidden to apply for any travel documents and must not contact any prosecution witnesses.

Polly Peck collapsed two months ago with debts estimated at £1.3 billion.

De Beers signs diamond accord

By OUR MINING CORRESPONDENT

IN ITS second multi-million dollar agreement since its formation in March, the Swiss-based arm of the De Beers diamond group yesterday said it will advance \$50 million to Angola and initiate a technical co-operation agreement to help rehabilitate Angolan diamond fields.

In July, De Beers Centenary signed an exclusive five-year sales and co-operation agreement with the Soviet Union that additionally involved a secured advance by De Beers of \$1 billion.

The Angolan accord, to be formally signed in January, includes plans for De Beers exclusively to help explore for and develop potential new sources of diamonds in Angola, a country which traditionally is one of the world's richest producers, with an annual production of 1 million carats worth \$200 million.

Yesterday's agreement is

the culmination of two years of negotiations that started in 1989 between Nicholas Oppenheimer, De Beers' deputy chairman, and officials of Endimanga, Angola's state diamond marketing arm, at a time when De Beers was solely a South African group and when black African business dealings with South Africa were an anathema.

De Beers Centenary said Angolan production will be channelled for sale through the Central Selling Organisation, the De Beers' marketing arm.

Should a kimberlite diamond "pipe" be found that was economical to develop, it could mean a capital outlay of \$1 billion.

De Beers Centenary, in co-operation with Angolan finance, would be expected to fund a percentage of such a development.

De Beers shares rose 31p to £10½p.

Ansbacher made loan to Levitt

By GEORGE SIVELL

HENRY Ansbacher, the merchant bank, revealed it had lent £4.7 million to Roger Levitt, founder of the financial services company that went into liquidation last week.

Yesterday, Ansbacher said it was still working out how big a provision to make against the loan, which was made to Mr Levitt in a

personal capacity and which is only partly covered by realisable assets.

Mr Levitt last week made a petition for personal bankruptcy, which means his assets are in the hands of the official receiver and protected from various creditors. He has been bailed for £500,000 on charges of the theft of £665,000.

Last year, Ansbacher made

pre-tax profits of £10.1 million, its best ever, but said that it would do little better than break even in the second half of the current year.

During the first half Ansbacher made £5.1 million before tax. An initial profits warning was given this month.

Ansbacher shares held steady at 62p after yesterday's announcement.

Solving the problem of insolvency

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

IN A MOVE that underlines the pressures imposed on companies by the recession, the Institute of Directors has published emergency guidelines to members on the implications of the 1986 Insolvency Act.

The IoD cautions directors to avoid being "panicked" into insolvency procedures at the first sign of trouble. But it also urges them to be aware of their trading position and to take action at the first sign of difficulty.

The IoD believes the severity of the penalties of the 1986 Act, which renders directors personally liable if they knowingly trade while their

company is insolvent, is the rising trend of company failures. According to trade department figures, the number of liquidations in the second quarter was 20 per cent higher than the same period of 1989, at 3,356.

Peter Morgan, IoD director-general, said it was essential that members studied the guidelines before the end of the year, when banks tend to make up their accounts and review debts.

"1991 is going to be a difficult year for many companies and small businesses," he said. "It is important that directors should be aware of the avenues open to them which fall short of the irreversible step of liquidation."

The core of the IoD's advice to its 40,000 members is the need to take

professional advice. It cautions that non-executive directors, in particular, "may be too ready to deliver a company into the hands of its bankers with an invitation to appoint a receiver, to seek an administration order, or, indeed, to initiate the company's liquidation."


The 1986 Insolvency Act was based on a report by Sir Kenneth Cork. It aimed to discourage fraudsters and to provide a framework within which companies in difficulties could more easily be rescued. However, the IoD has long argued that the act's sanctions may encourage directors to throw in the towel too early.

In addition to the loss of personal assets, directors who commit "wrongful trading" can be disqualified from

holding directorships for up to 15 years.

The IoD's guidelines highlight parts of the act that relieve directors of personal liability if they take "every step" available to minimise potential loss to creditors.

Companies should be able to present creditors with an accurate statement of their affairs and a business plan, it says. "If the company's proposals are realistic, creditors will frequently welcome them." The guidelines do not end on a happy note, though. "If insolvency proceedings are inevitable, the directors should ensure they begin as early as possible."



WALTER WRIGHT

Expressions of interest are invited for the purchase of the business operations of the Walter Wright Group of Companies ("Walter Wright").

With over 55 years experience, Walter Wright is a dominant force in the mobile crane hire, heavy haulage and earthmoving markets in Australia, with branches in Victoria, Queensland, NSW and WA.

The crane hire and earthmoving divisions are fully integrated and, together with the heavy haulage division, operate nationally. All divisions are supported by Walter Wright's maintenance department.


The Group has approximately 270 employees and a turnover to 30 June 1990 of \$52 million.

An information memorandum is available to genuine interested parties.

Expressions of interest to Miss Wendy Fowler, or Mr Laurie Fitzgerald on (03) 543 1355.

Registrations close 5pm, 7th February 1991.

Walter Wright Pty Ltd. (Receivers and Managers Appointed), Mr. Mark A. Korda and Mr. Mark F. Menzies (Receivers and Managers).



ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO.

G.P.O. BOX 5151 MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA 3001

Stagecoach told to sell part of Hastings operation

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY, the trade secretary, has ordered Stagecoach Holdings, the acquisitive bus operator, to hold talks aimed at selling part of its operation in the Hastings area of East Sussex.

His decision signals a determination to follow the path of his predecessor, Nicholas Ridley, who sought to stem the concentration of bus service ownership that has been developing since deregulation. It has wide-ranging implications for the bus industry, which is struggling to cope with high interest rates and wafer-thin profit margins.

Mr Lilley has given Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of the Office of Fair Trading, two months to explore with Stagecoach the possibility of divesting part of its Hastings area operation to stimulate competition. In doing so, he has rejected a recommendation from the Monopolies and Mergers Com-

mission. An MMC report, published yesterday by Mr Lilley, found that the purchase by Stagecoach of Formula, a holding company for Hastings and District Transport, may be expected to operate against the public interest. But, the MMC concluded, "it would not be appropriate to recommend the divestment of H&D from Stagecoach". It said: "Divestment is likely to mean that in this limited area the existing dominant supplier merely gives way to another, and would also risk disruption of services and inconvenience to passengers while the change is being effected."

Instead, the MMC suggested a package of undertakings from Stagecoach, designed to prevent predatory pricing and contain fare increases.

But Mr Lilley said: "I am not persuaded that these remedies would, on their own, be sufficient to deal with the consequences of the loss of competition caused by the merger."

Stagecoach declined to comment until it

had studied the MMC report. The deregulation of the bus industry was triggered by the Transport Act 1985. Since then there have been six MMC merger inquiries into bus company takeovers. Four have been blocked, one allowed and the sixth, into the purchase by Caldaire Holdings of Blue Bird Securities, which operates services in Durham and Cleveland, still being studied by Mr Lilley.

Stagecoach, a Perth company headed by Ann Gloag, has emerged as one of the most acquisitive groups. Its sales have grown from £3.5 million in the year to end-April 1985 to a provisional £98.4 million in the year ending April 1990, the MMC report says. During the same period, profit before interest and tax has risen from £315,000 to £7.5 million.

Stagecoach has made 14 acquisitions, culminating in the purchase of H&D, completed in December 1989. There have been four disposals. According to the MMC, Stagecoach is now one of the largest bus

companies in the United Kingdom, commanding four per cent of the market.

However, the MMC figures show that finance charges swallow most of its profits, and interest cover has been reduced to just 1.3 times. The profit margin on turnover has shown a steady decline, from a peak 14.2 per cent in 1986 to 6.9 per cent in 1990. During the same period, return on capital has fallen from 25.1 per cent to 11 per cent.

In August 1989, Stagecoach bought Southdown, a former National Bus company subsidiary, which provides services along the south coast from Brighton to Eastbourne. Southdown had been bought by its management in October 1987, but after an initial profit, soon lapsed into loss. After the buyout, Stagecoach set up a joint-venture company, Hastings Topline, to compete with Hastings and District. Buying H&D gave Stagecoach a virtual monopoly over services in the Hastings area.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sotheby's sales down 17.5% to \$2.43 billion

DEPRESSED conditions in the fine art world reduced worldwide sales at Sotheby's Holdings, the auction house, by 17.5 per cent to \$2.43 billion in 1990. Michael Ainslie, 17.5 per cent and chief executive officer, said sales during the key autumn season fell from \$1.51 billion to \$751 million. Last week, the company, which is controlled by the Taubman family from America, said it was closing two UK branches and making 80 staff redundant.

On Wednesday Christie's International, the rival fine arts house, reported a 50 per cent fall in autumn sales from a record £675 million in 1989 to £334 million and announced its directors' fees were being frozen to reduce costs. Said Mr Ainslie: "In analysing our sales results this year it is probable that with the perspective of history the sales explosion of 1989 will be viewed as the exception and the levels of 1990 seen as the beginning of a return to normalcy."

Vickers stake not referred Regulators agree merger

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has decided not to refer the purchase of a 20.04 per cent stake in Vickers by IEP Securities of New Zealand to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He acted on advice from Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, who is obliged to examine the implications when a holding has voting rights over more than 20 per cent of the shares.

THE Securities Association and the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers have voted in favour of merger. Of the AFBD membership, 211 voted in favour and 23 against, while 384 TSA members agreed and 21 objected. The move will simplify regulation in the City and reduce duplication. The new body will be called the Securities and Futures Authority and will come into existence on April 1.

TGI ahead to £1.16m

TGI, the electrical products manufacturer, has reported a 5 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits from £1.11 million to £1.16 million for the six months to end-September. Turnover increased by 4 per cent to £263 million and earnings per share increased from 3.9p to 4.2p. The company said manufacturing operations had continued to perform well. However, the factored products division made a £134,000 loss and the company is to withdraw from these activities.

Following the withdrawal, the company will be able to devote its full attention to the manufacturing companies, which are operating profitably and have strong export markets. The interim dividend is held at 2.2p.

Fosco shares lose 7p Kemp passes dividend

SHARES in Fosco fell 7p to 286p ahead of today's 1pm deadline for acceptances for Burmah Castrol's 300p a share cash offer, which values the speciality chemicals group at £259 million. The outcome of the hostile bid is thought to be finely balanced after a decision by M&G Fund Management to reject the offer in respect of its 10 per cent holding. Burmah has acquired just under 30 per cent in the market.

PE Kemp Holdings, the Third Market quoted theatrical engineer and scenery maker, has fallen further into the red with pre-tax losses of £421,561 for the year to end-October, compared with a £381,513 loss for the same period last year. Turnover was almost unchanged at £3.1 million. Kemp said there is no final or interim dividend, compared with a total payout of 0.5p last year.

Savage's troubles end

THE troubles at Savage Group, the USM-quoted hardware company, appear to be over after the resolution to remove David Stephens, the finance director, was defeated at the group's extraordinary meeting. At the annual meeting that followed, all the resolutions were passed, including the re-election of Douglas Rogers, the chairman, Tony Philipson, chief executive, and Alan Wainwright, marketing director. The problems at the group started with a collapse in profits from £7.3 million to £51,000 and a huge rise in borrowings to £27 million, giving gearing of almost 100 per cent. Shares in the company fell 1p to 45p.

Sears in £68m properties sale to Great Portland

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SEARS, the shoe shop and department store group, is selling 30 retailing, office and warehouse properties to Great Portland Estates, the property investment company, for £68.7 million.

The sale continues Sears' policy of disposal of its investment properties and marks the latest move in a big rationalisation programme, which also involves closing 200 of its 1,500 retail outlets.

Rental income from the properties, which have a book value of £72.7 million and are spread throughout the UK, was forecast at about £5.7 million in the year to end-January 1991.

Sears will realise a profit over original cost of £21 million from the sale, which

will be shown in Sears' accounts for this financial year. Richard Peskin, Great Portland Street chairman and managing director, said the properties had been valued by Hillier Parker at more than the purchase price.

The consideration is being met through £21.2 million in cash and the issue to Sears of 19 million ordinary shares in Great Portland and £4.5 million of loan stock.

Sears has already sold half the ordinary shares and all the loan stock, realising £24.5 million.

But Sears has committed itself to retaining the remaining 9.5 million shares, which represent about 5 per cent of Great Portland's issued ordinary share capital, for at least a year.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, said the annual dividend on the Great Portland shares, combined with the interest saving from the cash proceeds, would be "significantly in excess of the rental income arising from the sold properties".

Most of the properties are retail outlets let to third parties, including two in Oxford Street, central London. Mr Peskin said the majority of the investments will be retained for long-term investment but some smaller units are likely to be traded in the next two years. Sears shares fell 3p to 83p while Great Portland lost 7p to 219p.

Appletree poised to go private

By JONATHAN PRYNN

APPLETREE Holdings, the beef processing group, is effectively taking itself private through an £83.6 million (£8.9 million) management buyout of The Kildare Group, its sole remaining trading operation.

Kildare, which is involved in cattle slaughtering and beef processing in Ireland, is being acquired by a consortium comprising David Johnson, deputy chairman of Appletree, Tom McParland, chief executive of the Kildare Group, and Courtine Holdings, a company jointly owned by them.

The purchase price represents an exit multiple of 7.3 times last year's post-tax profits of £11.3 million.

The company said that it had been unable to find other purchasers for Kildare because of the adverse publicity surrounding the Irish beef industry, which had culminated in the appointment of an examiner to the Goodman Group.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to pay off Appletree's borrowings, leaving it with net assets of £17.3 million, mainly in the form of cash deposits.

Appletree intends to return the cash to shareholders and cancel the shares of all shareholders, except those held directly by Mr Johnson and in family trusts, which between them control 31.5 per cent.

The directors estimate shareholders will receive 95p per share, compared with yesterday's share price of 75p.

Appletree also announced pre-tax profits of £2.5 million for the six months to end September, against £1.9 million for the same period last year. An interim dividend of 1.5p compares with 1.1p in 1989.



Meeting demand: Noel Flurry (right) and Vin Ghandi, whose childcare business supplies Mothercare

Managers adopt Bissell childcare

THE managing director and finance director of the childcare operations of Bissell Appliances, have put together a £7.5 million management buyout of their division, which manufactures plastic goods such as babies' feeding bottles and high chairs (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Bissell Appliances is a subsidiary of Bissell Inc. of America, which makes household goods and carpet cleaning products.

The buyout of the childcare division by Noel Flurry, the managing director, and Vin Ghandi, the finance director, has been backed by 3i, the venture capital group, MIM Development Capital and

County NatWest Ventures, which together have provided £3.3 million.

County NatWest's finance division has put up another £2.6 million in the form of a loan and the management team has subscribed for 51 per cent of the equity.

The business, which has a factory in north London, is a

supplier to Mothercare and Boots. Mr Flurry said: "The buyout of the childcare division was possible since it was a non-core activity. In this market, one needs to be able to respond quickly to an opportunity and we will now be able to make these decisions more effectively than before."

News Corp replies on share fall

RUPERT Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, the international media group, said News Corp was pleased with the progress of negotiations for the rescheduling of its debt. His remarks followed a sharp fall in the shares of The News Corporation in Australia.

In a statement in response to a formal query from the Australian Stock Exchange over the share movement, which was attributed to rumours over the debt talks, News Corp said it knew of no reason for the price fall.

Mr Murdoch said: "A majority of banks and other lenders to the group have already indicated agreement to the terms of the group's proposal." Some delay is understood to have been caused by the reluctance of some small lenders to join in the restructuring.

In Australia, News Corp shares fell 20 per cent on the day to Aus\$4.35, their lowest closing price for five years.

In London, News Corp's quotation dropped from 215p to 173p. Shares of News International, the British subsidiary, fell by 7 per cent to 115p.

Clydesdale names new chairman

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CHRISTMAS is a time for letting bygones be bygones. Sir David Nickson, the ex-chairman of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries who resigned his directorship of Clydesdale Bank two years ago after finding himself in an embarrassing conflict of loyalties, is to become the bank's new chairman.

Sir David resigned the post after *The Times* revealed that Clydesdale's parent bank, the National Australia Bank, was helping to fund Elders DL's £1.6 billion bid for the Scottish brewer. Sir David had

been unaware of NAB's £100 million loan to Elders to help finance the bid.

Temper ran high north of the border during the hostile takeover battle, which the monopolies commission eventually blocked. Some S&N employees closed their accounts at the Royal Bank of Scotland, which had also helped to finance Elders' bid.

Sir David, who is still a non-executive director of S&N although no longer chairman, rejoined the Clydesdale board last month and is currently deputy chairman. He will become non-executive chairman at the end of 1991, succeeding Sir Eric Yarrow, who has been a director of Clydesdale for 28 years, deputy chairman for ten and chairman for five years.

Sir David is also chairman of the Scottish Development Agency and Scottish Enterprise, and a director of Dunedin Fund Managers, Edinburgh Investment Trust, General Accident, Grampian Properties, Hambros and Property Estates and Reversion Co.



Conflict over: Sir David

Recession registered at Electra

ELECTRA Investment Trust, which specialises in smaller and unquoted companies, beat the all-share index in the year to end September, but has suffered subsequently from the unpopularity of small company shares brought on by fears about the recession.

The fully diluted net asset value fell 15.6 per cent to 292p per share, against a 17.7 per cent drop in the all-share index over the 12 months to end September. But asset value fell to 289p per share over the two months to end November, while the market recovered. Over the 14 months, fully diluted asset value fell 16.5 per cent against 11.8 per cent for the all-share index.

Michael Stoddart, the chairman, said asset value had also been affected by writedowns of shares in unlisted companies with property related operations and by the effect of a stronger pound on the American portfolio.

The dividend rises 10.9 per cent to 6.1p from earnings per share up 13.7 per cent at 9.5p per share. Pre-tax profit rose 14 per cent to £14.3 million.

Manx authorities criticised over SIB

By RONALD FAUX

THE attorney general of the Isle of Man, William Cain, and the Manx police have been criticised for lack of action after the inspector's report on the Savings and Investment Bank (SIB) collapse.

A report by ATK May QC into events after the collapse of the bank in 1982 was handed to government officials.

The case against eight of the bank's principals or advisers charged with fraud was abandoned this year because of the lapse of time between the bank's collapse and the hearing.

The 150-page report by Mr May said that on receipt of the inspector's report on May 29, 1986, the attorney general did not formulate a strategic plan. He gave the police no strategic guidance and, when he did ask them to do anything, his requests were imprecise and unconfirmed, said the report by Mr May.

The Isle of Man police, the report said, had some responsibility for the inactivity after delivery of the report by the

inspector, appointed under the company act, which gave prima facie evidence of criminal activity.

Mr May's report states: "Having been asked by the attorney general to consider what should be done, they did nothing in the following months more effective than to liaise with the Metropolitan police, with the result that nothing of consequence happened for six and a half months."

A statement by the Manx Council of Ministers yesterday said that much had been done on the island to improve matters since the bank's collapse. This came in the form of legislation and by extra resources provided to the police and the attorney general's office.

The Council of Ministers had asked the First Deemster, the senior judge on the island, to consider the report and advise the council on whether there were any changes that should be made to insular legislation or procedures in the light of the enquiry's conclusions.

Workers force out Trabant's managers

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

THE TOP management of eastern Germany's most notorious company, the makers of the two-stroke Trabant cars, has resigned amid a bitter conflict with car workers.

Dieter Voigt and Wolfgang Neef, the chairman and general manager of Sachsenring, the subsidiary of IFA Pkw, the motor conglomerate, have tendered their resignation after workers stormed into their offices to express their dissatisfaction with the way the company is run. The company will cease to exist in its current form by the middle of next year.

It is not exactly Western practice for managers to resign because of worker dissatisfaction, but in former East Germany, old habits are dying hard. Worker discontent over the future of the company and pay levels has been mounting recently and culminated in a letter by the metalworkers' union, in which the 9,000 workers said they no longer had confidence in the management.

The resignations will need to be approved by the Treuhandschaft, the trustee of the former East Germany's corporate sector.

The company plans to produce a final round of 10,000 Trabant cars, which might become collector's items, providing they do not rust away beforehand.

The car became a symbol of new-found freedom after the fall of the Berlin Wall last year, when many thousands of them drove into West Berlin and on to the West German motorways. In what was West Germany, the Trabant was voted "car of the year 1989", but it is likely to be banned from the roads because it fails the Germany's stringent emission tests.

When the Trabant is finally extinct the factory will produce parts, including exhaust pipes and car seats, for the

Yellow cows lead the stampede for Shanghai shares

Shanghai Bulls and bears may be the symbols of joy and sorrow on Western stock markets but in Shanghai, where trading has resumed after a break of more than 40 years, beware of the "yellow cows".

With a whiff of easy money in the air, the Chinese herds are gathering. Thousands of people queued this week, some for two days and nights, to buy a new issue of corporate shares that will be traded on Shanghai's new securities exchange. Many were paid to queue by black marketers, known in China as "yellow cows", who operate their own highly lucrative but illegal exchange.

Proud of their past as the financial hub of Asia before the 1949 Communist revolution, the people of Shanghai are being swept again by share-buying fever. "I lined up for a day and a night," said a young worker outside a branch of Shanghai International Securities Company, which

was waded in the air a slip of paper that will act as a lottery ticket.

The issue was so oversubscribed that at this outlet only 800 out of 1,500 people were given a ticket and only 240 will receive their shares.

"Pay a little money, buy a little knowledge," quipped another Shanghai resident who said he had no idea what he was buying but knew he could not lose. "Our socialist system guarantees that these companies cannot go bankrupt. It's a social question - with 1.1 billion Chinese you'd have so many unemployed." Another worker jumped in: "It's patriotic to buy shares and you get rich."

The figures bear out their faith in the system. Shi Jianping, deputy manager of the outlet, said after ushering out of his office two policemen looking for "yellow cows". New shares in Shenhua Electronics, he said, were being issued at 150 yuan (\$28). But on Wednesday, when the Shanghai Securities Exchange opened

snatched up for more than double. On the black market they sell for 500 yuan.

Mr Shi said: "The authorities are protecting the interests of the people by setting a low price. They believe the market price is inflated."

"People are not psychologically prepared for stock markets and can be shocked by big losses." Some of the "big yellow cows" driving up prices were believed to be from Hong Kong and Taiwan, Mr Shi said.

As Shanghai tries to re-establish itself as the driving financial force in China, its reforms held back by hard-line party ideologues in Peking, the main problem is matching demand. For the moment the new exchange is trading only 30 issues of securities. Only eight are corporate stocks, the rest are bonds. Shenhua is capitalised at only 5.65 million yuan, according to Mr Shi.

Gong Haocheng, president of the Shanghai branch of the People's Bank

change, said he hoped more corporate stocks would soon be issued to soak up excess liquidity. "There are 700 billion yuan in bank savings accounts nationwide," he said. "With such a large amount, and deposit accounts as the only means of saving, you can't meet demand. People want financial instruments with higher risk and higher return. They wish to buy bonds and stocks." He added: "I am confident the exchange will develop in a steady and healthy way."

About a million of Shanghai's 13 million people have bought or sold bonds or stocks since the city authorised the first official brokerage to open in 1986. Today there are about 50 of the shop-like outlets in the city attracting crowds who watch prices marked up on blackboards.

Foreign bankers at the securities exchange opening ceremony said insider trading within China's normally secretive system could pose a threat to the future of its embryonic



Wakeham boost for renewable energy

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, has invited proposals for renewable energy projects capable of generating 150-200 megawatts of power which will be eligible for special financial support.

He has answered criticism of the first-round allocations, when almost half of approved capacity was in waste incineration plants, by setting targets for key technologies.

Under second-round licensing plans, wind power, which accounted for just 7 per cent of capacity in the first round, would provide 25 to 50mw, or 12.5 to 25 per cent of capacity.

Mr Wakeham wants hydro plant to account for 5 to 10mw, landfill gas to provide 30 to 60mw, and waste incineration to provide 50 to 100mw. Other methods could account for 15 to 30mw.

Mr Wakeham said he wanted to encourage development of a range of economic renewable technologies. Responding to complaints that the first projects were chosen too rapidly, he said the necessary order will not be laid before Parliament until next autumn.

Small firms likely to shed staff

MANY small businesses are likely to shed staff to fight recession and high interest rates, according to a Small Business Research Trust survey.

The survey found there were more small companies expecting to cut staff than looking to maintain or to increase their workforce. The survey for the three months to September suggested "a net shedding of labour" in small businesses.

Annual growth in sales, turnover and employment were at their lowest since the survey began more than seven years ago. The companies were also less optimistic about the fourth quarter.

High interest rates were the most pressing problem, with a quarter of the 1,300-plus respondents citing them as their biggest concern. Low turnover and lack of business were also principal concerns.

Bearish signs dash hopes of a pre-Christmas rally

A STEADY trickle of bearish news took its toll on share prices and bonds, effectively scuppering all lingering hopes of a pre-Christmas rally.

The resignation of the Soviet foreign minister, a disappointing set of money supply figures and further weakness in the pound left investors nursing hefty losses. But dealers complained that the biggest problem was the apathy of fund managers who appeared more interested in the festive season.

Prices drifted throughout the session but closed above their worst levels, helped by news of a cut in the American prime rate. The FT-SE 100 index ended 19.9 points lower at 2,158.8, having been almost 30 points down at one stage. The FT index of 30 shares shed 19.9 to 1,687.2 on a turnover of 590 million shares.

However, County NatWest, WoodMac, the broker, is optimistic about prospects for the year and is forecasting that the FT-SE 100 will reach 2,650, with the market achieving returns of almost 30 per cent.

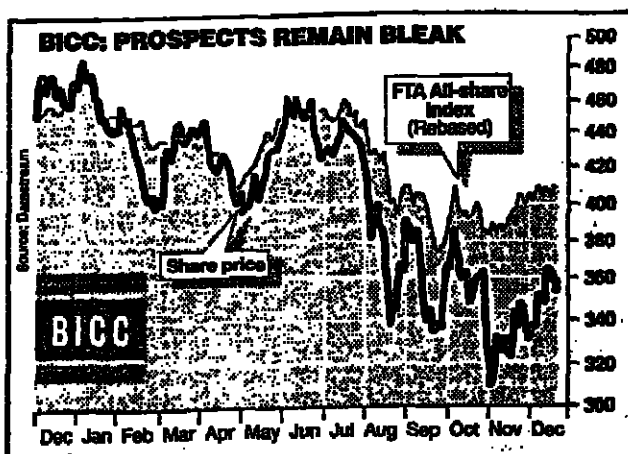
Government securities recorded falls extending to about 2½% at the longer end. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which is well placed to understand the impact the recession is having on the securities industry, has downgraded the profit estimates of its two biggest rivals SG Warburg, 3p better at 33p, and Kleinwort Benson, unchanged at 28p.

Philip Gibbs, an analyst at BZW, is forecasting a loss of

of the low levels of turnover in the City.

Mr Gibbs has also reduced his estimate for Warburg this year by £7 million to £103 million, against last year's £187.5 million. BZW is a seller of Kleinwort on fundamentals but remains bullish on Warburg long term.

News that Union Texas has withdrawn its North Sea assets from the market after failing to find buyers added to existing woes in the oil sector. Chevron is said to be disappointed with offers received



£6 million for Kleinwort Benson, against a profit of £83.3 million, for the year just ending after writing off losses connected with the stake in Premier Consolidated Oilfields. For 1991, he has cut his pre-tax profit forecast by £4 million to £36 million because

for interests in the Don Dunlin and Murchison fields in the North Sea, while Amoco is believed to have accepted a lower than expected offer for its 8.63 per cent stake in Hutton.

Analysts are trimming estimated net asset values for oil companies with significant exposure to the North Sea. These include Enterprise, down 4p to 60p; Laxmo, down 10p to 37p; Premier Consolidated Oilfield, down 3p to 61p; and Ranger Oil, down 4p to 33p. Shell fell 5p to 55p.

American investors are continuing to reduce their holdings in the soon to be demerged Racal Electronics, down 4p to 181p. The Bank of New York Nominees says the number of American Depository Receipt shares it holds on

behalf of clients has fallen by ten million to 150.6 million, 11.58 per cent of the total.

Glaxo shrugged off an early fall of 16p to end all square at 844p. Astra, of Sweden, has been given official approval to launch the drug Losec, for the short-term treatment of ulcers, in Japan.

Losec is a rival to Zantac, Glaxo's anti-ulcer treatment. Astra attacked Glaxo this week, claiming that sales of Zantac were slowing down.

Roscoe fell 7p to 286p, compared with an offer price of 300p a share from Burnham Oil. Roscoe, whose £259 million bid closes today, has dismissed Roscoe's proposals to dispose of certain assets as "irrelevant".

Great Portland Estates, the property investment company, held steady at 226p after the group announced plans to pay Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans retailer, £68.7 million for a portfolio of properties with annual rental income of £5.7 million.

To finance the deal, Great Portland is issuing 19 million new shares. Sears will retain 9 million shares, equivalent to a 5 per cent stake in the company. Sears eased ½p to 85p.

BICC fell 4p to 354p in the wake of a sell recommendation from BZW, which remains gloomy about prospects. It expects pre-tax profits in the current year to drop from £201 million to £180 million and has cut its estimate for 1991 from £200 million to £160 million.

Mr Gibbs has also reduced his estimate for Warburg this year by £7 million to £103 million, against last year's £187.5 million. BZW is a seller of Kleinwort on fundamentals but remains bullish on Warburg long term.

News that Union Texas has withdrawn its North Sea assets from the market after failing to find buyers added to existing woes in the oil sector. Chevron is said to be disappointed with offers received

of the low levels of turnover in the City.

Mr Gibbs has also reduced his estimate for Warburg this year by £7 million to £103 million, against last year's £187.5 million. BZW is a seller of Kleinwort on fundamentals but remains bullish on Warburg long term.

News that Union Texas has withdrawn its North Sea assets from the market after failing to find buyers added to existing woes in the oil sector. Chevron is said to be disappointed with offers received

Frankfurt Dax slides 3.3% on Soviet resignation

Frankfurt SHARE prices tumbled 3.3 per cent to their lowest level in five weeks after Eduard Shevardnadze resigned as Soviet foreign minister.

The Dax index fell 47.98 points to close at 1,409.26, its lowest close since the 1,406.23 recorded on November 14.

The index has dropped 7.4 per cent in the past four sessions. Harald Breitenbach, inter-bank trader at Dresdner Bank, confirmed that Mr Shevardnadze's decision had caused the decline. "The reaction was slow at first. The talk about the dictatorship is really what shook people up," he said.

However, traders said volume was low, reflecting the fact that most participants have closed their books for the year and were unwilling to stake out new positions.

Herr Breitenbach said: "At the end of the year, you just try to stay away. If news like this breaks it can be devastating. Germans have a certain way of overreacting."

The Dax fell to about 1,410 soon after the opening, but recovered on reports that Mr Shevardnadze's move would be postponed. Near the end of the session, however, it was said Mr Shevardnadze would remain in office until the Soviet parliament confirmed his departure.

□ Tokyo - Shares closed down and near their lows in sluggish and featureless trading after two days of rises prompted investors to take profits. The Nikkei index fell 351.84 points, or 1.41 per cent, to 24,524.94.

□ Hong Kong - Share prices slipped in thin trading, reflecting the usual year-end slump in the market. The Hang Seng index fell 5.23 points to 3,078.21.

□ Singapore - Share prices closed mixed in shortened trading hours after a suspension at the opening due to a computer fault. Trading was resumed at 4 pm and extended to 6 pm. The Straits Times index rose 4 points to 1,177.64.

□ Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index closed 7.5 points weaker at 1,276.6.

(Agencies)

WALL STREET Dow recovers ground

New York BLUE chips recouped some ground after falling more than 1 per cent in early trading. Investors were unnerved by the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze.

Ron Doran, director of institutional trading at CL

King and Associates, said: "Does this mean the demise of Gorbachev?"

The Dow Jones industrial average was 14.85 points lower at 2,611.88 in mid-morning, as declining issues held a nine-to-two lead over gaining shares. (Reuters)

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Dec 20 Dec 19
midday close

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 21 1990

Court of Appeal

Overworked doctor has cause of action

Johnstone v Bloomsbury Health Authority

Before Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment December 19]

A doctor who was required by a health authority to work so much overtime that it was reasonably foreseeable that damage would be caused to his health had a cause of action.

The Court of Appeal so held by majority (Lord Justice Leggatt dissenting) in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Bloomsbury Health Authority, from Mr Harold Bennett, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, who, on September 22, 1989 had allowed the plaintiff's appeal from the decision of Master Warren to strike out of the writ and statement of claim those parts which sought a declaration that the plaintiff could not lawfully be required to work for more than 72 hours.

In addition the court unanimously allowed in part a cross-appeal by the plaintiff, Dr Christopher Johnstone, from the decision of Mr John Cornwell, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, who, on June 11, 1990 had struck out that part of the plaintiff's reply in which he had sought to rely on the Contract Terms Act 1977 and on the contention that the contract was void for reasons of public policy.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Andrew Hochstadt, QC, appeared for the plaintiff. Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Antony D. L. White for Dr Johnstone.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the plaintiff was employed by the health authority as a senior house officer in the obstetric department of University College Hospital.

Paragraph 4(b) of his contract of employment provided: "4(b) Your hours of duty shall be the standard working week of 10 units of medical time (40 hours) and in addition you will be available for Class A UMT's (as defined in the terms and conditions of service paragraph 119) on average a week as follows: 1.2.89. Obstetrics 12 UMT's."

The effect of that provision was that the plaintiff was required to work a basic 40 hours a week. In addition, he was required to be available on call for up to a further 48 hours on average. That meant that in some weeks he might have to work considerably more than 88 hours in total, although the average had not to exceed that each week taken over a period.

The prayer in the amended statement of claim sought, *inter alia*, a declaration that the plaintiff could not lawfully have been required to work for so many hours as would foreseeably injure his health, notwithstanding that the total number of excess hours might have amounted on average to fewer than 48 hours a week.

In his Lordship's opinion, paragraph 4(b) gave the authority the power to require the plaintiff to work up to 88 hours a week on average. But that power had to be exercised in the light of the other contractual terms and in particular their duty to take care of his safety.

Mr Beloff submitted that the authority could not be expected to treat their house officers differently according to their physical stamina. But that was not the law.

In *Paris v Stepney Borough Council* (1951) AC 367 the employer owed a duty to take greater care of a one-eyed man than a normal man in respect of injuries to the eyes. If employers knew or ought to have known that a workman had a vulnerable back they were in breach of their duty to take care of him and move him which were likely to cause him injury even if a normal man could carry them without risk.

It followed that if the pleaded facts were established, paragraph 4(b) of the contract did not preclude or limit the plaintiff's claim as contended by Mr Beloff and the main appeal was dismissed.

Plaintiff's cross-appeal. In the plaintiff's reply it was pleaded, *inter alia*, that the contractual obligation, which was denied, to work for 88 hours a week was rendered ineffective by the Contract Terms Act 1977 and/or was void for reasons of public policy.

It, contrary to his Lordship's opinion, was submitted that the plaintiff was entitled to succeed on the submissions advanced in support of the appeal in relation to the statement of claim, it was argued that it could only do so because the effect of paragraph 4(b) had to be construed as an express assumption of risk by the plaintiff or because it operated to restrict or limit the ambit and scope of the duty of care owed by the authority.

If that was the correct analysis, then the substance of the effect, although not the form, of the term was such that it could properly be argued to fall within the Act. For that reason reliance on the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 should not be struck out.

Public Policy. His Lordship had no doubt that it was a matter of grave public concern that junior doctors should be required to work such long hours without proper rest that not only their health might be put at risk but that of their patients as well.

However, that was a matter which was more appropriate for negotiation between the professional bodies representing the doctors and the managers of the National Health Service, or for Parliament, than for resolution by the courts.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT, dissenting as to the main appeal, said that it seemed to him that the operation of the regime contemplated by the declaration

sought would be fraught with difficulty. The number of hours that a person could work in a week without injuring his health would vary infinitely according to the health and constitution of the individual, the number of hours worked, the length of continuous periods worked without rest, the nature of the work and many other matters.

To that would then have to be added the difficulties of objective perception that the doctor concerned would be unable in any particular week to work for any longer than he already had.

Taken to its logical conclusion, that approach might prevent the defendants from calling on a weakly doctor to work more than, say, 30 hours in a week less his health be injured. Yet it was for 88 hours in total that the plaintiff contended to make himself available. Before he accepted that obligation he knew what it would entail.

It might indeed be scandalous that junior doctors should not now be offered more civilised terms of service in hospitals and that fact that past generations of doctors had accepted such onerous terms without demur was no reason why the terms now offered should not be more enlightened.

But those were matters for negotiation by their association or in default, for amelioration by the legislature. They did not constitute means by which those bound by current contracts could be enabled by the ingenuity of their lawyers to derogate from obligations freely assumed. Those who could not stand the heat should stay out of the kitchen.

As a matter of law reliance on an express term could not involve breach of an implied term. The defendants could not be said by the mere fact of requiring the plaintiff to work no more hours than he had contracted to work, to be in breach of any contractual duty owed to him; and, since the scope of the relevant duties owed was delimited by contract, he could be in no better position by couching his claim in tort.

In the result, if the plaintiff fell sick during the performance of his employment by the health authority, he would not be able to rely on the fact that he was overworked as a basis for his claim.

On the cross-appeal his Lordship

ship agreed with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that he agreed with the decision and reasoning of Lord Justice Stuart-Smith as to the issues arising on the cross-appeal.

As to the appeal, his Lordship also agreed with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith but on rather more restricted grounds. Although clause 4(b) imposed an absolute duty on the plaintiff to work for 40 hours and in addition an obligation "to be available" for a further 48 hours a week on average, the authority had a discretion as to the number of hours it called on the plaintiff to work overtime.

There was no incompatibility between the plaintiff being under a duty to be available for 48 hours overtime and the authority having the right to subject to its ordinary duty not to injure the plaintiff, to call on him to work up to 48 hours overtime on average.

There had to be some restriction on the authority's rights. In any sphere of employment other than that of junior hospital doctors, an obligation to work up to 88 hours in any one week would be rightly regarded as oppressive and intolerable.

But even that was not the limit of what the authority claimed. Since the plaintiff's obligation was to be available "on average" for 48 hours a week, the authority claimed to be entitled to require him to work more than 88 hours in some weeks regardless of possible injury to his health.

In his Lordship's judgment, the authority's right to call for overtime under clause 4(b) was not an absolute right but had to be limited in some way. There was no technical legal reason why the authority's discretion to call for overtime should not be exercised in conformity with implied duty to take reasonable care not to injure their employees' health.

Thus notwithstanding clause 4(b) of the contract, the authority could not lawfully require the plaintiff to work so much overtime in any week as it was reasonably foreseeable would damage his health.

Whether the authority did in fact require such unlawful overtime would depend on the facts as they emerged at trial. The relief claimed should not be struck out at this stage.

Solicitors: Beuchcroft Stanleys, Hempsfords.

In re C (a Minor)

Before Lord Justice Dillon and Mr Justice Thorpe [Judgment December 18]

It was permissible for a judge to see a court welfare officer privately in his room during a trial, but only in exceptional circumstances.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing an appeal by the father of a child from an access order made by Judge Aron Owen in Clerkenwell County Court.

Mr James Townsend, QC, who did not appear below, and Miss Sarah O'Connor for the father; Mr William Wojcik for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that after the father and mother, who were not married, ceased cohabiting, the father had access to the child for a while by agreement but in 1989 the mother stopped all access, and the father applied for a defined access.

A welfare officer's report stated *inter alia* that the mother had said that she would rather go to prison than allow access. His conclusion was that perhaps access should not be recommended.

Soon after the beginning of the hearing the judge retired and saw the two welfare officers privately in his room. They were invited to counsel him. The hearing resumed in open court and the judge made an order for twice-yearly access for half a day on each occasion.

The mother appealed. The judge's decision was upheld by the Registrar of Civil Appeals the judge was

invited to comment on an affidavit in support of the application for leave to appeal, and he did so. See a procedure could be helpful in certain circumstances, but it should only be done by the direction of the court.

In his comments, the judge said that it was not his normal practice to see court welfare officers in his room but he thought the case exceptional. He wanted help from the officers and did not at that stage consider it right to discuss the questions of the mother's possible implementation for deliberate breach of a court access order.

The help he wanted was whether the officers could suggest some form of access, as an alternative to the conclusion in his report that the mother was not to be recommended to have access to the child for a while by agreement but in 1989 the mother stopped all access, and the father applied for a defined access.

A welfare officer's report stated *inter alia* that the mother had said that she would rather go to prison than allow access. His conclusion was that perhaps access should not be recommended.

Soon after the beginning of the hearing the judge retired and saw the two welfare officers privately in his room. They were invited to counsel him. The hearing resumed in open court and the judge made an order for twice-yearly access for half a day on each occasion.

The first was *In re K (Infants)* (1993) Ch 381 which was applied in *Townsend and O'Connor* (1993) F 311. In *Forster* Lord Justice Wilmer agreed with Lord Justice Uppjohn in *K* that a party had the right to see and comment on all information put before the judge and if it were otherwise the proceedings

could not be described as judicial.

He also referred to Lord Justice Devlin's suggestion in *K* that there might be an exception in special circumstances, as did Lord Justice Harman, whose view was that there could be no exceptional circumstances.

In *H v H (Irregularity: Effect on Order)* (1983) 4 FLR 119, apparently the only authority referred to the court was *Forster* which was followed. The appeal in *H* was allowed on the ground that a private meeting between the judge and a court welfare officer was an infringement of the principle of justice needing to be seen to be done.

In *In re B (a Minor) (Irregularity of Practice)* (1990) 1 FLR 300, *H*, the only authority referred to, was followed.

The difficulty with two later cases was that, after *Forster* was decided, *K* was reversed: see *Official Solicitor to the Supreme Court v K* (1965) AC 201. The House of Lords put a different balance on the matter: the paramount consideration was the welfare of the child, and circumstances could arise where the judge in the exercise of his discretion could see persons or receive a report in the absence of the parties or their representatives.

However, their Lordships were clearly of the view that that was not to be recommended as a general practice but was only to be undertaken with great circumspection: see (1965) AC 201, 223, 238, 242.

Since in *H* and *B* the court

was not referred to the House of Lords decision in *K*, those two cases were to be treated as having been decided *per incuriam*.

Applying *K*, his Lordship could not accept the judge's exercise of his discretion. The problem of access where the custodial parent refused access by reason of adverse feelings to the other parent which coloured the custodial parent's view of the best interests of the child, was not uncommon, although difficult to resolve.

The welfare officers could and should have been asked in open court whether they could think of possible alternatives to the conclusion in their report. It was not right for the judge to see the officers privately, even though he then immediately told counsel why he had seen the officers and what they had said to him.

The judge's order should therefore be set aside and there should be a fresh hearing of the father's application before a different judge.

MR JUSTICE THORPE, concurring, said that judges frequently invited court welfare officers to go into the witness box, in open court, to see there was up-to-date information or to seek assistance on issues arising. The circumstances in the present case fell a long way from those of which would justify seeing welfare officers in private.

Solicitors: John Ford, Finsbury Park; Paul Yanakas & Co, Holloway.

not itself a contract for the sale of land, and *De Lassalle v Guildford* (1901) 2 KB 215, 221-222) was relied on.

The terms of the two letters between the parties' solicitors in the present case were not precisely identical but there was no inconsistency with the contract terms in the letter from the purchaser's solicitor and there was no difference in the terms put forward as to what the vendor had guaranteed, that was, that copies of the Land Registry entries would be made available.

In effect, there had been an offer of a warranty by the vendor's solicitor as to the state of the vendor's title which was done as an inducement to the purchaser to exchange contracts. That offer was accepted by the purchaser and the contracts were exchanged.

The warranty was of the sort described in the *De Lassalle* case. It was effective as a contract in itself and effective outside the provisions of section 2 of the 1989 Act. It would be unenforceable if common transactions such as had taken place should cause the main contract to be avoided. There would be judgment for the vendor.

Solicitors: Piper Smith & Basham, Offenbach & Co.

Test of relevancy on discovery

The Captain Gregos

The test of relevancy on the question of discovery of documents was not the probative value in an action, but the question of whether those documents might or could reasonably be expected to provoke a line of enquiry which would be of assistance to a party.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice

Record v Bell Before Judge Paul Baker, QC [Judgment October 5]

Where a contract in two parts for the sale of land, signed by the respective parties, was twinned and the vendor then offered a warranty as to the state of his title in order to induce the purchaser to exchange, the acceptance of that offer by the purchaser could amount to a collateral contract outside the requirements of section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989.

Judge Paul Baker, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a chambers judgment reported with his Lordship's permission.

Record v Bell Before Judge Paul Baker, QC [Judgment October 5] Where a contract in two parts for the sale of land, signed by the respective parties, was twinned and the vendor then offered a warranty as to the state of his title in order to induce the purchaser to exchange, the acceptance of that offer by the purchaser could amount to a collateral contract outside the requirements of section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989.

Mr Richard Ritchie for the plaintiff vendor; Mr David Halpern for the defendant purchaser.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the purchaser had failed to complete a contract for the sale to him of a residential property and in the vendor's action for specific performance of the contract, he applied for summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The purchaser had sought leave to defend, saying the contract was unenforceable because of its non-compliance with section 2 of the 1989 Act.

The contract was in two parts, signed by both the parties, and was ready for exchange but the vendor did not have up-to-date office copies of the Land Registry entry showing him as registered owner. He was also waiting for a charge certificate to arrive.

A letter from the vendor's solicitor to the purchaser's solicitor confirmed a telephone conversation between them when an offer was made to treat the exchange of contract conditional on the receipt by the purchaser of the office copy entries in question, to which the purchaser's solicitor replied agreeing that the office copies to be delivered to him would be

showing the vendor as registered proprietor and that there would be no other entries different from the copy charge certificate supplied.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won enough to give you a share of the prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Lloyds (ns)	Banks/Discount	
2	Craxi	Industrial A-D	
3	Tipton	Transport	
4	YRM	Building/Roads	
5	Fraser	Property	
6	Raymond Williams	Building/Roads	
7	Rasul (A)	Industrial L-R	
8	Wintrest	Banks/Discount	
9	Cantiga	Industrial A-D	
10	Reed Executive	Industrial L-R	
11	Benchmark	Banks/Discount	
12	Reed	Drugs/Stores	
13	Unit Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	
14	Reed	Industrial L-R	
15	Swansea	Industrial S-Z	
16	Waring SG	Banks/Discount	
17	Reed	Newspapers/Pub	
18	Reed	Industrial A-D	
19	Reed Ind	Industrial S-Z	
20	Reed & Brown	Drugs/Stores	
21	Reed Ind	Industrial S-Z	
22	Reed (O)	Drugs/Stores	
23	Reed	Drugs/Stores	
24	Reed & Brown	Drugs/Stores	
25	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
26	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
27	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
28	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
29	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
30	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
31	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
32	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
33	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
34	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
35	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
36	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
37	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
38	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
39	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
40	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
41	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
42	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
43	Reed	Industrial S-Z	
44	Reed	Industrial S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS			
High	Low	Open	Close

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
High	Low	Open	Close

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
High	Low	Open	Close

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
High	Low	Open	Close

UNDATED			
High	Low	Open	Close

INDEX-LINKED			
High	Low	Open	Close

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
High	Low	Open	Close

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Sharp falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 10. Dealings end December 28. Contango day December 31. Settlement day January 7.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 25)

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	Lloyds (ns)	11.1	0.1	0.9
2	Craxi	11.1	0.1	0.9
3	Tipton	11.1	0.1	0.9
4	YRM	11.1	0.1	0.9
5	Fraser	11.1	0.1	0.9
6	Raymond Williams	11.1	0.1	0.9
7	Rasul (A)	11.1	0.1	0.9
8	Wintrest	11.1	0.1	0.9
9	Cantiga	11.1	0.1	0.9
10	Reed Executive	11.1	0.1	0.9
11	Benchmark	11.1	0.1	0.9
12	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
13	Unit Newspapers (ns)	11.1	0.1	0.9
14	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
15	Swansea	11.1	0.1	0.9
16	Waring SG	11.1	0.1	0.9
17	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
18	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
19	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1	0.9
20	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1	0.9
21	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1	0.9
22	Reed (O)	11.1	0.1	0.9
23	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
24	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1	0.9
25	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
26	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
27	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
28	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
29	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
30	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
31	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
32	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
33	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
34	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
35	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
36	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
37	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
38	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
39	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
40	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
41	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
42	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
43	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9
44	Reed	11.1	0.1	0.9

BREWERIES			
No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Lloyds (ns)	11.1	0.1
2	Craxi	11.1	0.1
3	Tipton	11.1	0.1
4	YRM	11.1	0.1
5	Fraser	11.1	0.1
6	Raymond Williams	11.1	0.1
7	Rasul (A)	11.1	0.1
8	Wintrest	11.1	0.1
9	Cantiga	11.1	0.1
10	Reed Executive	11.1	0.1
11	Benchmark	11.1	0.1
12	Reed	11.1	0.1
13	Unit Newspapers (ns)	11.1	0.1
14	Reed	11.1	0.1
15	Swansea	11.1	0.1
16	Waring SG	11.1	0.1
17	Reed	11.1	0.1
18	Reed	11.1	0.1
19	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
20	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
21	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
22	Reed (O)	11.1	0.1
23	Reed	11.1	0.1
24	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
25	Reed	11.1	0.1
26	Reed	11.1	0.1
27	Reed	11.1	0.1
28	Reed	11.1	0.1
29	Reed	11.1	0.1
30	Reed	11.1	0.1
31	Reed	11.1	0.1
32	Reed	11.1	0.1
33	Reed	11.1	0.1
34	Reed	11.1	0.1
35	Reed	11.1	0.1
36	Reed	11.1	0.1
37	Reed	11.1	0.1
38	Reed	11.1	0.1
39	Reed	11.1	0.1
40	Reed	11.1	0.1
41	Reed	11.1	0.1
42	Reed	11.1	0.1
43	Reed	11.1	0.1
44	Reed	11.1	0.1

BUILDING, ROADS			
No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Lloyds (ns)	11.1	0.1
2	Craxi	11.1	0.1
3	Tipton	11.1	0.1
4	YRM	11.1	0.1
5	Fraser	11.1	0.1
6	Raymond Williams	11.1	0.1
7	Rasul (A)	11.1	0.1
8	Wintrest	11.1	0.1
9	Cantiga	11.1	0.1
10	Reed Executive	11.1	0.1
11	Benchmark	11.1	0.1
12	Reed	11.1	0.1
13	Unit Newspapers (ns)	11.1	0.1
14	Reed	11.1	0.1
15	Swansea	11.1	0.1
16	Waring SG	11.1	0.1
17	Reed	11.1	0.1
18	Reed	11.1	0.1
19	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
20	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
21	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
22	Reed (O)	11.1	0.1
23	Reed	11.1	0.1
24	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
25	Reed	11.1	0.1
26	Reed	11.1	0.1
27	Reed	11.1	0.1
28	Reed	11.1	0.1
29	Reed	11.1	0.1
30	Reed	11.1	0.1
31	Reed	11.1	0.1
32	Reed	11.1	0.1
33	Reed	11.1	0.1
34	Reed	11.1	0.1
35	Reed	11.1	0.1
36	Reed	11.1	0.1
37	Reed	11.1	0.1
38	Reed	11.1	0.1
39	Reed	11.1	0.1
40	Reed	11.1	0.1
41	Reed	11.1	0.1
42	Reed	11.1	0.1
43	Reed	11.1	0.1
44	Reed	11.1	0.1

ELECTRICITY			
No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Lloyds (ns)	11.1	0.1
2	Craxi	11.1	0.1
3	Tipton	11.1	0.1
4	YRM	11.1	0.1
5	Fraser	11.1	0.1
6	Raymond Williams	11.1	0.1
7	Rasul (A)	11.1	0.1
8	Wintrest	11.1	0.1
9	Cantiga	11.1	0.1
10	Reed Executive	11.1	0.1
11	Benchmark	11.1	0.1
12	Reed	11.1	0.1
13	Unit Newspapers (ns)	11.1	0.1
14	Reed	11.1	0.1
15	Swansea	11.1	0.1
16	Waring SG	11.1	0.1
17	Reed	11.1	0.1
18	Reed	11.1	0.1
19	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
20	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
21	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
22	Reed (O)	11.1	0.1
23	Reed	11.1	0.1
24	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
25	Reed	11.1	0.1
26	Reed	11.1	0.1
27	Reed	11.1	0.1
28	Reed	11.1	0.1
29	Reed	11.1	0.1
30	Reed	11.1	0.1
31	Reed	11.1	0.1
32	Reed	11.1	0.1
33	Reed	11.1	0.1
34	Reed	11.1	0.1
35	Reed	11.1	0.1
36	Reed	11.1	0.1
37	Reed	11.1	0.1
38	Reed	11.1	0.1
39	Reed	11.1	0.1
40	Reed	11.1	0.1
41	Reed	11.1	0.1
42	Reed	11.1	0.1
43	Reed	11.1	0.1
44	Reed	11.1	0.1

FINANCE, LAND			
No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Lloyds (ns)	11.1	0.1
2	Craxi	11.1	0.1
3	Tipton	11.1	0.1
4	YRM	11.1	0.1
5	Fraser	11.1	0.1
6	Raymond Williams	11.1	0.1
7	Rasul (A)	11.1	0.1
8	Wintrest	11.1	0.1
9	Cantiga	11.1	0.1
10	Reed Executive	11.1	0.1
11	Benchmark	11.1	0.1
12	Reed	11.1	0.1
13	Unit Newspapers (ns)	11.1	0.1
14	Reed	11.1	0.1
15	Swansea	11.1	0.1
16	Waring SG	11.1	0.1
17	Reed	11.1	0.1
18	Reed	11.1	0.1
19	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
20	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
21	Reed Ind	11.1	0.1
22	Reed (O)	11.1	0.1
23	Reed	11.1	0.1
24	Reed & Brown	11.1	0.1
25	Reed	11.1	0.1
26	Reed	11.1	0.1
27	Reed	11.1	0.1
28	Reed	11.1	0.1
29	Reed	11.1	0.1
30	Reed	11.1	0.1
31	Reed	11.1	0.1
32	Reed	11.1	0.1
33	Reed	11.1	0.1
34	Reed	11.1	0.1
35	Reed	11.1	0.1
36	Reed	11.1	0.1
37	Reed	11.1	0.1
38	Reed	11.1	0.1
39	Reed	11.1	0.1
40	Reed	11.1	0.1
41	Reed	11.1	0.1
42	Reed	11.1	0.1
43	Reed	11.1	0.1
44	Reed	11.1	0.1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS			
No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Lloyds (ns)	11.1	0.1
2	Craxi	11.1	0.1
3	Tipton	11.1	0.1
4	YRM	11.1	0.1
5	Fraser	11.1	0.1
6	Raymond Williams	11.1	0.1
7	Rasul (A)	11.1	0.1
8	Wintrest	11.1	0.1
9	Cantiga	11.1	0.1
10	Reed Executive	11.1	0.1
11	Benchmark	11.1	0.1
12	Reed	11.1	0.1
13	Unit Newspapers (ns)	11.1	0.1
14	Reed	11.1	0.1
1			

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS			
No.	Company	Price	Change
173	Alcolac	181	32
174	Alcolac	181	32
175	Alcolac	181	32
176	Alcolac	181	32
177	Alcolac	181	32
178	Alcolac	181	32
179	Alcolac	181	32
180	Alcolac	181	32
181	Alcolac	181	32
182	Alcolac	181	32
183	Alcolac	181	32
184	Alcolac	181	32
185	Alcolac	181	32
186	Alcolac	181	32
187	Alcolac	181	32
188	Alcolac	181	32
189	Alcolac	181	32
190	Alcolac	181	32
191	Alcolac	181	32
192	Alcolac	181	32
193	Alcolac	181	32
194	Alcolac	181	32
195	Alcolac	181	32
196	Alcolac	181	32
197	Alcolac	181	32
198	Alcolac	181	32
199	Alcolac	181	32
200	Alcolac	181	32
201	Alcolac	181	32
202	Alcolac	181	32
203	Alcolac	181	32
204	Alcolac	181	32
205	Alcolac	181	32
206	Alcolac	181	32
207	Alcolac	181	32
208	Alcolac	181	32
209	Alcolac	181	32
210	Alcolac	181	32
211	Alcolac	181	32
212	Alcolac	181	32
213	Alcolac	181	32
214	Alcolac	181	32
215	Alcolac	181	32
216	Alcolac	181	32
217	Alcolac	181	32
218	Alcolac	181	32
219	Alcolac	181	32
220	Alcolac	181	32
221	Alcolac	181	32
222	Alcolac	181	32
223	Alcolac	181	32
224	Alcolac	181	32
225	Alcolac	181	32
226	Alcolac	181	32
227	Alcolac	181	32
228	Alcolac	181	32
229	Alcolac	181	32
230	Alcolac	181	32
231	Alcolac	181	32
232	Alcolac	181	32
233	Alcolac	181	32
234	Alcolac	181	32
235	Alcolac	181	32
236	Alcolac	181	32
237	Alcolac	181	32
238	Alcolac	181	32
239	Alcolac	181	32
240	Alcolac	181	32
241	Alcolac	181	32
242	Alcolac	181	32
243	Alcolac	181	32
244	Alcolac	181	32
245	Alcolac	181	32
246	Alcolac	181	32
247	Alcolac	181	32
248	Alcolac	181	32
249	Alcolac	181	32
250	Alcolac	181	32
251	Alcolac	181	32
252	Alcolac	181	32
253	Alcolac	181	32
254	Alcolac	181	32
255	Alcolac	181	32
256	Alcolac	181	32
257	Alcolac	181	32
258	Alcolac	181	32
259	Alcolac	181	32
260	Alcolac	181	32
261	Alcolac	181	32
262	Alcolac	181	32
263	Alcolac	181	32
264	Alcolac	181	32
265	Alcolac	181	32
266	Alcolac	181	32
267	Alcolac	181	32
268	Alcolac	181	32
269	Alcolac	181	32
270	Alcolac	181	32
271	Alcolac	181	32
272	Alcolac	181	32
273	Alcolac	181	32
274	Alcolac	181	32
275	Alcolac	181	32
276	Alcolac	181	32
277	Alcolac	181	32
278	Alcolac	181	32
279	Alcolac	181	32
280	Alcolac	181	32
281	Alcolac	181	32
282	Alcolac	181	32
283	Alcolac	181	32
284	Alcolac	181	32
285	Alcolac	181	32
286	Alcolac	181	32
287	Alcolac	181	32
288	Alcolac	181	32
289	Alcolac	181	32
290	Alcolac	181	32
291	Alcolac	181	32
292	Alcolac	181	32
293	Alcolac	181	32
294	Alcolac	181	32
295	Alcolac	181	32
296	Alcolac	181	32
297	Alcolac	181	32
298	Alcolac	181	32
299	Alcolac	181	32
300	Alcolac	181	32
301	Alcolac	181	32
302	Alcolac	181	32
303	Alcolac	181	32
304	Alcolac	181	32
305	Alcolac	181	32
306	Alcolac	181	32
307	Alcolac	181	32
308	Alcolac	181	32
309	Alcolac	181	32
310	Alcolac	181	32
311	Alcolac	181	32
312	Alcolac	181	32
313	Alcolac	181	32
314	Alcolac	181	32
315	Alcolac	181	32
316	Alcolac	181	32
317	Alcolac	181	32
318	Alcolac	181	32
319	Alcolac	181	32
320	Alcolac	181	32
321	Alcolac	181	32
322	Alcolac	181	32
323	Alcolac	181	32
324	Alcolac	181	32
325	Alcolac	181	32
326	Alcolac	181	32
327	Alcolac	181	32
328	Alcolac	181	32
329	Alcolac	181	32
330	Alcolac	181	32
331	Alcolac	181	32
332	Alcolac	181	32
333	Alcolac	181	32
334	Alcolac	181	32
335	Alcolac	181	32
336	Alcolac	181	32
337	Alcolac	181	32
338	Alcolac	181	32
339	Alcolac	181	32
340	Alcolac	181	32
341	Alcolac	181	32
342	Alcolac	181	32
343	Alcolac	181	32
344	Alcolac	181	32
345	Alcolac	181	32
346	Alcolac	181	32
347	Alcolac	181	32
348	Alcolac	181	32
349	Alcolac	181	32
350	Alcolac	181	32
351	Alcolac	181	32
352	Alcolac	181	32
353	Alcolac	181	32
354	Alcolac	181	32
355	Alcolac	181	32
356	Alcolac	181	32
357	Alcolac	181	32
358	Alcolac	181	32
359	Alcolac	181	32
360	Alcolac	181	32
361	Alcolac	181	32
362	Alcolac	181	32
363	Alcolac	181	32
364	Alcolac	181	32
365	Alcolac	181	32
366	Alcolac	181	32
367	Alcolac	181	32
368	Alcolac	181	32
369	Alcolac	181	32
370	Alcolac	181	32
371	Alcolac	181	32
372	Alcolac	181	32
373	Alcolac	181	32
374	Alcolac	181	32
375	Alcolac	181	32
376	Alcolac	181	32
377	Alcolac	181	32
378	Alcolac	181	32
379	Alcolac	181	32
380	Alcolac	181	32
381	Alcolac	181	32
382	Alcolac	181	32
383	Alcolac	181	32
384	Alcolac	181	32
385	Alcolac	181	32
386	Alcolac	181	32
387	Alcolac	181	32
388	Alcolac	181	32
389	Alcolac	181	32
390	Alcolac	181	32
391	Alcolac	181	32
392	Alcolac	181	32
393	Alcolac	181	32
394	Alcolac	181	32
395	Alcolac	181	32
396	Alcolac	181	32
397	Alcolac	181	32
398	Alcolac	181	32
399	Alcolac	181	32
400	Alcolac	181	32
401	Alcolac	181	32
402	Alcolac	181	32
403	Alcolac	181	32
404	Alcolac	181	32
405	Alcolac	181	32
406	Alcolac	181	32
407	Alcolac	181	32
408	Alcolac	181	32
409	Alcolac	181	32
410	Alcolac	181	32
411	Alcolac	181	32
412	Alcolac	181	32
413	Alcolac	181	32
414	Alcolac	181	32
415	Alcolac	181	32
416	Alcolac	181	32
417	Alcolac	181	32
418	Alcolac	181	32
419	Alcolac	181	32
420	Alcolac	181	32
421	Alcolac	181	32
422	Alcolac	181	32
423	Alcolac	181	32
424	Alcolac	181	32
425	Alcolac	181	32
426	Alcolac	181	32
427	Alcolac	181	32
428	Alcolac	181	32
429	Alcolac	181	32
430	Alcolac	181	32
431	Alcolac	181	32
432	Alcolac	181	32
433	Alcolac	181	32
434	Alcolac	181	32
435	Alcolac	181	32
436	Alcolac	181	32
437	Alcolac	181	32
438	Alcolac	181	32
439	Alcolac	181	32
440	Alcolac	181	32
441	Alcolac	181	32
442	Alcolac	181	32
443	Alcolac	181	32
444	Alcolac	181	32
445	Alcolac	181	32
446	Alcolac	181	32
447	Alcolac	181	32
448	Alcolac	181	32
449	Alcolac	181	32
450	Alcolac	181	32
451	Alcolac	181	32
452	Alcolac	181	32
453	Alcolac	181	32
454	Alcolac	181	32
455	Alcolac	181	32
456	Alcolac	181	32
457	Alcolac	181	32
458	Alcolac	181	32
459	Alcolac	181	32
460	Alcolac	181	32
461	Alcolac	181	32
462	Alcolac	181	32
463	Alcolac	181	32
464	Alcolac	181	32
465	Alcolac	181	32
466	Alcolac	181	32
467	Alcolac	181	32
468	Alcolac	181	32
469	Alcolac	181	32
470	Alcolac	181	32
471	Alcolac	181	32
472	Alcolac	181	32
473	Alcolac	181	32
474	Alcolac	181	32
475	Alcolac	181	32
476	Alcolac	181	32
477	Alcolac	181	32
478	Alcolac	181	32
479	Alcolac	181	32
480	Alcolac	181	32
481	Alcolac	181	32
482	Alcolac	181	32
483	Alcolac	181	32
484	Alcolac	181	32
485	Alcolac	181	32
486	Alcolac	181	32
487	Alcolac	181	32
488	Alcolac	181	32
489	Alcolac	181	32
490	Alcolac	181	32
491	Alcolac	181	32
492	Alcolac	181	32
493	Alcolac	181	32
494	Alcolac	181	32
495	Alcolac	181	32
496	Alcolac	181	32
497	Alcolac	181	32
498	Alcolac	181	32
499	Alcolac	181	32
500	Alcolac	181	32
501	Alcolac	181	32
502	Alcolac	181	32
503	Alcolac	181	32
504	Alcolac	181	32
505	Alcolac	181	32
506	Alcolac	181	32
507	Alcolac	181	32
508	Alcolac	181	32
509	Al		

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

NORFOLK -

AGENCY

[illegible]

Kameo Style poised to gain first success over fences

By MANDARIN

KAMEO Style, a useful handcap hurdler last season, can record his first success over fences in the Tanners Champagne Novices Handicap Chase at Ludlow this afternoon. He is my nap.

That victory looked on the cards over this course and distance 16 days ago when the seven-year-old was going well up the eventual winner, Tinas Lad, only to land too steeply at the third last and come down.

Snooker Table, the eventual fourth in that race, was comfortably held at the time and, even on 6lb more favourable terms, should not get the better of Kameo Style.

Kameo Style's hurdling form left no doubt as to his ability. Apart from four wins, he put up a fine effort in defeat when second, attempting to concede almost two stone, to the smart Coworth Park, over this trip at Sandown Park.

Majestic Bruno was a tailed off last of three finishers in the Taunton race won by Mandraki Shuffle last month and would have to improve considerably on that to take a hand here, which leaves the



Mellor: likely winners at Ludlow and Hexham

top weight, Thursday, as the probable danger.

He was a fair second to Hilarion at Windsor on his three runs last term were over, extended three miles, which suggests his future may lie over a longer distance.

The Tanners Wines Novices Chase is an interesting contest. Casino Magic's connections will be hoping to avoid a repetition of his last run, also at Ludlow, when he was left 20 lengths at the start but still finished half a length second to Tinas Lad.

However, even granted a level break, he may be hard pressed to cope with Senator Of Rome. Toby Balding's charge was a good 15-length second to the useful Southerly Buster at Newbury last month and followed up with a third to Sparkling Flame in a valuable race at Lingfield.

St Louis Blues can maintain John Edwards' excellent form in the Tanners Burgundy Handicap Hurdle. He won more easily than the two-length verdict over Oakley, might suggest at Huntingdon last time and, although this is a stiffer task, he may have further scope for improvement.

So Proud, also a winner on that Huntingdon card, reappears in the Tanners Manzanilla Novices Hurdle and should be up to conceding weight to the opposition. He made an eye-catching hurdling debut, belaying his inexperience to beat Scoby by eight lengths, and it will be disappointing if he does not progress.

Stan Mellor, the trainer of So Proud, can complete a long-range double with

Roshtary in the Tattersall Mares Only Novices Chase at Hexham. Roshtary won at Folkestone just three days ago and can justify the journey at the expense of Candlelight, whose jumping still leaves something to be desired.

Whatever the fate of Candlelight, trainer Gordon Richards should enjoy a successful afternoon with Montpelier Lad (1.15), Manhattan Chase (1.45) and Impale (3.15).

Far Over Stray appeals as the best bet at Uttoxeter in the St Modwen Novices Hurdle. Despite being just in need of the race, he is, to Chatterbox Times and Standard at Wexley last month. With that experience behind him he can overcome Wincanton winner Beresford Girl.

The Heathways Novices Chase promises an intriguing meeting between Stirrup Cup, a potentially high-class novice hurdler last season before going lame, and Formula One. I just prefer Formula One, third to Royal Athletic and Carrick Hill Lad in a valuable

Chepstow rain is welcomed

By CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

COOL Ground, runner-up to Bonanza Boy 12 months ago, was the subject of strong support for tomorrow's Coral Welsh National at Chepstow after rain fell at the Gwent course yesterday.

The eight-year-old is now a 5-1 chance from 6-1 with the sponsors, who retain Carrick Hill Lad as firm favourite at 1-1-4.

Rodger Farrar, clerk of the course at Chepstow, said: "We have had four hours of continuous rain and the ground is good with good to soft patches. More rain is forecast for tomorrow."

Reg Akhurst, Cool Ground's trainer, could not have been more pleased at the weather news. "I'm delighted," Akhurst said, "because the chance to run a big race and Luke Harvey will have the race."

Bonanza Boy, who will be attempting to win the race for a third time for Martin Pipe, will also relish yesterday's rain. A stable spokesman confirmed: "He is fit and well and on target for Saturday's race."

A decision concerning Yoo's participation will not be made until today.

SETTINGS: Cool Ground 1-1-4 Carrick Hill Lad 6-1 Bonanza Boy 5-1 Cool Ground 6-1 Bonanza Boy 14-1 tw.

Incentives to keep older fillies racing

By PHIL McLENNAN

PATTERN changes aimed specifically at keeping the best fillies in training after their three-year-old careers are to be made next year.

The Lancashire Oaks, the Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks and the A F Budge Park Hill Stakes are all to be opened to older fillies for the first time in 1991.

Explaining the move, John Smees, secretary to the Jockey Club's pattern race committee, said yesterday: "These changes have been made in response to discussions with owners and trainers, who felt there was insufficient incentive to keep top-class older fillies in training."

There is no intention to open up the equivalent colts' races in the same way.

Of the three races in question, the Yorkshire Oaks will remain a group three race but the Park Hill will be downgraded from group two to group three in view of disappointing fields in recent years.

No decision has yet been reached regarding a possible reduction in distance of the Ascot Gold Cup but the group three Goodwood Cup is to be cut from 2½ miles (two miles) to two miles as part of the Jockey Club's reorganisation of the programme for stayers.

The Queen's Vase, run over two miles at Royal Ascot, has been upgraded from listed to group three status.

Morshead resigns at Kelso

By PHIL McLENNAN

SAM Morshead, the former National Hunt jockey, has resigned as clerk of the course at Kelso, the Scottish course which is the subject of a Jockey Club enquiry.

Morshead yesterday declined to elaborate on his reasons but said his resignation had been prompted by the racecourse executive's use of "prohibited materials" on the course without his knowledge.

His announcement came shortly after racing began at the track yesterday. Morshead issued a statement which said: "Regrettably, I feel unable to continue as clerk of the course at Kelso. I cannot confidently retain my other clerk posts at the subject of an enquiry and a Jockey Club licence under the existing executive."

When pressed for a fuller explanation, he added: "Materials were used on the track at the last meeting and indeed previously which were unknown to me. They were not within Jockey Club instructions and a disciplinary enquiry is now pending. I don't want to say anything more."

David McFarquhar, who works with Morshead on the Scottish circuit and is a director at Kelso, was similarly reluctant to give additional information.

He said: "As far as the directors are concerned, we were very reluctant to accept Sam's resignation. But the matter is the subject of an enquiry and we do not wish to make further comment."

Morshead, who was due to be in charge at the Scottish source until the end of the season, will retain his other clerk posts at Perth, Edinburgh and Ayr (National Hunt).

Reveley continues in form with 78-1 treble

By PHIL McLENNAN

MARY Reveley, the Saltburn trainer, saddled her second Kelso treble, the season yesterday with Cowgate Fountain, Snowfire Chap and Norval but the Scottish race will never be her favourite venue.

The 37-year-old, who has been ridden by stable jockey Peter Niven, continued the fine run of the Cleveland trainer, who also saddled the first-timer of her career at Sedgemoor in the Mares Only Novices Hurdle Qualifier and Snowfire Chap in the Ebbw Vale Handicap Chase.

Snowfire Chap, twice a winner at Kelso, was the season's first to win the Mares Only Novices Hurdle Qualifier and Snowfire Chap in the Ebbw Vale Handicap Chase.

However, Mrs Reveley still vividly recalls the death of her promising mare, Brigantia, at Kelso three seasons ago. "She was a very good horse and I will take me a long time to get rid of that memory," she said.

Norval, who completed the

Reveley continues in form with 78-1 treble

By PHIL McLENNAN

MARY Reveley, the Saltburn trainer, saddled her second Kelso treble, the season yesterday with Cowgate Fountain, Snowfire Chap and Norval but the Scottish race will never be her favourite venue.

The 37-year-old, who has been ridden by stable jockey Peter Niven, continued the fine run of the Cleveland trainer, who also saddled the first-timer of her career at Sedgemoor in the Mares Only Novices Hurdle Qualifier and Snowfire Chap in the Ebbw Vale Handicap Chase.

Snowfire Chap, twice a winner at Kelso, was the season's first to win the Mares Only Novices Hurdle Qualifier and Snowfire Chap in the Ebbw Vale Handicap Chase.

However, Mrs Reveley still vividly recalls the death of her promising mare, Brigantia, at Kelso three seasons ago. "She was a very good horse and I will take me a long time to get rid of that memory," she said.

Norval, who completed the

LUDLOW

Selections

By MANDARIN

- 12.30 So Proud.
- 1.00 Market Leader.
- 1.30 St Louis Blues.

- 2.00 Senator Of Rome.
- 2.30 Patrick James.
- 3.00 KAMEO STYLE (nap).
- 3.30 Running Kiss.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

Going: firm (good to firm in places)

12.30 TANNERS MANZANILLA NOVICES HURDLE (E1,842; 2m) (12 runners)

- 1 21 SO PROUD 16 (DUP) (Lord Wolverton) S Mellor 5-11-4 M Perrett 50
- 2 35 BLUES SECRET 37 (J Bury) P Hobbs 4-10-12 M Perrett 50
- 3 4-PRIMO HELMAR 14 (M Jervis) F Lord 4-10-12 M Perrett 50
- 4 U LAKEHEATHER 21 (Mrs H Richards) K White 4-10-12 A Charlton 50
- 5 65-6 NESTY LEX 7 (J O'Brien) J Bradley 5-10-12 D Tegg 50
- 6 OCTOBER WINDS 14 (R Hamson) D Barrow 4-10-12 R Chesson 71
- 7 50-PRINCE VINCENT 27 (A Jervis) M Perrett 4-10-12 M Perrett 50
- 8 24-0 SHUTTLE HILL 46 (C Murphy) T Tate 5-10-12 M Perrett 50
- 9 0 TASHMAN OAK 88 (A Stannard) M Perrett 4-10-12 M Perrett 50
- 10 0-0 CATHY 28 (J O'Brien) J Bradley 5-10-12 D Tegg 50
- 11 0-0 CATHY 28 (J O'Brien) J Bradley 5-10-12 D Tegg 50
- 12 0-0 CATHY 28 (J O'Brien) J Bradley 5-10-12 D Tegg 50

SETTINGS: 8-11 So Proud, 9-2 Blues Secret, 7-1 Miley Lox, 10-1 October Winds, 12-1 Celtic Waters, 14-1 others.

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

1989: RUN TO 10-12 M Bostley (5-2 fav) Mrs J Patten 17m

LUDLOW

Selections

By MANDARIN

- 12.30 So Proud.
- 1.00 Market Leader.
- 1.30 St Louis Blues.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

2.0 TANNERS WINE NOVICES CHASE (E3,863; 3m) (8 runners)

1 22 SENATOR OF ROME (DUP) (P Mearns) O Belling 5-11-4 M Perrett 50

2 34-322 CARNIO MACH 18 (Mrs M Wilson) J Spang 5-11-4 M Perrett 50

<

● RUGBY UNION 32
● RACING 33
● FOOTBALL 34, 35

THE TIMES

SPORT

The fall of Adams may halt the rise of Arsenal

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE international career of Tony Adams, once considered a future captain of England, is under obvious threat. Although the Football Association has yet officially to decide whether the Arsenal defender should be further disciplined after he has been released from prison, his position in Graham Taylor's squad will inevitably be weakened.

Arsenal, who have been inundated with telephone calls since the four-month sentence was passed on Wednesday, have offered him public support. The FA, whose disciplinary code is strict, is unlikely to allow Taylor to be so forgiving. Besides, time is against Adams.

Unless he is picked for the summer tour of Australia and the Far East, it will be next September before he can re-join the national squad. If Taylor has not finished reshaping the team he inherited from Bobby Robson by then, he will be well on the way.

Adams's prospects were bright at the beginning of 1987, when he made his first appearance in the 4-2 victory in Spain. While Terry Butcher was recovering from a broken leg, his selection over the next two years was almost automatic. He missed only three of 20 matches.

Robson then considered Adams certain of a permanent place in the England side for a decade and predicted that he would eventually be the captain. But he was replaced by Des Walker after the trip to Saudi Arabia, where he scored, at the end of 1988, and was not recalled until last month's European championship qualifying tie in Dublin.

He was brought back for the occasion to reinforce England's aerial power against the Irish, and, even if he had been available, he was unlikely to be retained. His qualities, though admirably suited to the needs of his club, are not necessarily ideal for his country.

Adams may be a dominant figure within the rugged, physically demanding domestic game. When he has to cope with more mobile and subtle opponents, he is not so comfortably assured. Hence, Mark Wright, a more complete player, was preferred ahead of him in the World Cup squad last summer.

Walker, Wright and Paul Parker, England's established central defenders, are already being challenged by two other experienced campaigners. Taylor has confirmed that Bryan Robson will no longer be considered in midfield but he could, when fully fit, return at the back, where he represented the B team in Algeria.

Gary Mabbutt came back into contention during the same goalless draw ten days ago. His contribution convinced Taylor that he would be an able deputy if the need

arose. Gary Pallister, another contender, also played in Algeria. The competition for places is fierce and Adams is sure to lose further ground. So, probably, will Arsenal. The only unbeaten side in the first division, their pursuit of Liverpool has been based on a defence which has yielded only nine goals in 17 League fixtures. Adams, the captain, is the principal pillar. Without him, they are sure to be more vulnerable.

They have a surfeit of capable central defenders. Steve Bould, like Adams, has appeared in every game so far and George Graham has recently used David O'Leary as well. Neither Andy Linighan, signed from Norwich City at the beginning of the season, nor Colin Pates has yet been chosen.

None of them, however, is as forceful a player or as inspired a leader as Adams. Arsenal, having been deducted two points by the FA for the brawl at Old Trafford, can be excused for believing that they are destined not to regain the title they won two seasons ago.

Turner on the list

Warrington rugby league club has placed on the transfer-list the Greater Britain under-21 half-back, Robert Turner, at its own request. Turner, who has lost his place at stand-off to the Australian, Chris O'Sullivan, had a transfer request rejected two months ago.

Malcolm and Bicknell bowled too short and wide to occasion good players any difficulty on a pitch as true as this. Worse, Small could get through only 11 undemanding overs before, at tea, complaining of a reaction from his damaged thigh muscle.

Small stayed on the field for the remainder of the day but did not bowl again and is obviously struggling to be fit for the Test. DeFreitas is an ever more likely candidate to play a Test within a fortnight of arriving on the tour and, for all the transparent disaffection with Lewis's mystifying spate of ailments, he may yet be picked for the lack of anybody else suitable.

Just to compound the problems, a freakish accident at practice has left John Morris with his left hand badly bruised and heavily bandaged, a fractured bone not ruled out after hospital x-rays.

Morris was acting as wicketkeeper during the team's fielding routine and, as is the modern custom, wearing a baseball glove to take the players' throws. He was reaching to his left to collect a wayward one just as Micky Stewart, the team manager, hit another ball skyward. From point-blank range, the ball hit Morris on the back of his head, a blow from which he is not expected to recover for a week.

As Morris was logically the reserve batsman for Melbourne, this creates new potential for chaos and last night the harassed management was attempting to find some club cricket for DeFreitas, Hugh Morris and Larkins this weekend in case any, or all, of them are needed on Boxing Day. "All in all, not a good day for England," Stewart said, with weary understatement.

Doble denied the charges, arguing that the club had drawn FGIT's attention to the fact that it had received too much cash for work at its St James' Park ground, and that he personally repaid £27,000.

The FA, however, fined him £5,000 with a further £2,000 costs. Murray Couch, the financial director, was suspended for six months and fined £4,500. Michael Holladay, the commercial director, was fined £3,000. Archie Gooch, a former director, was fined £3,000, while the club must pay back £9,500.

Doble consulted lawyers last night as he decided whether to appeal. "I am absolutely astonished," he said. "There is no way we deserve this."

Terry Cooper, the Exeter manager, was understood to be considering his position.

Driving England into the dustbin Century of the highest calibre

From ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT BALLARAT

BETTING on the second Test match, which begins on Boxing Day, officially opened in Australia yesterday and, when play began in the four-day fixture at the Eastern Oval here, England's odds of 5-1 seemed attractively insulting.

By the close, however, no sensible person could have been rushing to back them. It was not the fact that the Victoria state side had amassed 336 for four, nor even that Dean Jones had taken his second audacious century off the touring side in five days. This, after all, occurred on the pitch which W. G. Grace reckoned to be the best in Australia.

No, what dampened any temptation to invade the local equivalent of Ladbrokes with a thick wad of dollars was the continuing ordinariness of England's cricket and the relentless setbacks afflicting them. The pressing question this weekend is not who they will select for the second Test but whether they can find 11 men who are neither injured nor inadequate.

Consigned to the field on a bleak and chilly day, England at least had an opportunity to define their best Test attack, the remaining issue apparently being to choose two from Malcolm, Small and Bicknell in support of the prospective debutant, Tufnell, and the comparative old sweat, Fraser. Yesterday's events, however, put this process into reverse.

Malcolm and Bicknell bowled too short and wide to occasion good players any difficulty on a pitch as true as this. Worse, Small could get through only 11 undemanding overs before, at tea, complaining of a reaction from his damaged thigh muscle.

Small stayed on the field for the remainder of the day but did not bowl again and is obviously struggling to be fit for the Test. DeFreitas is an ever more likely candidate to play a Test within a fortnight of arriving on the tour and, for all the transparent disaffection with Lewis's mystifying spate of ailments, he may yet be picked for the lack of anybody else suitable.

Just to compound the problems, a freakish accident at practice has left John Morris with his left hand badly bruised and heavily bandaged, a fractured bone not ruled out after hospital x-rays.

Morris was acting as wicketkeeper during the team's fielding routine and, as is the modern custom, wearing a baseball glove to take the players' throws. He was reaching to his left to collect a wayward one just as Micky Stewart, the team manager, hit another ball skyward. From point-blank range, the ball hit Morris on the back of his head, a blow from which he is not expected to recover for a week.

As Morris was logically the reserve batsman for Melbourne, this creates new potential for chaos and last night the harassed management was attempting to find some club cricket for DeFreitas, Hugh Morris and Larkins this weekend in case any, or all, of them are needed on Boxing Day. "All in all, not a good day for England," Stewart said, with weary understatement.

Doble denied the charges, arguing that the club had drawn FGIT's attention to the fact that it had received too much cash for work at its St James' Park ground, and that he personally repaid £27,000.

The FA, however, fined him £5,000 with a further £2,000 costs. Murray Couch, the financial director, was suspended for six months and fined £4,500. Michael Holladay, the commercial director, was fined £3,000. Archie Gooch, a former director, was fined £3,000, while the club must pay back £9,500.

Doble consulted lawyers last night as he decided whether to appeal. "I am absolutely astonished," he said. "There is no way we deserve this."

Terry Cooper, the Exeter manager, was understood to be considering his position.



No keeping up with Jones: Russell snatches a knee-high view of the century-maker

Ballarat's citizens may not, consequently, be seeing the cheeriest group of English cricketers to visit their city but they have spared no effort to uphold the history and hospitality of this fixture. Eastern Oval is the oldest ground in Australia and an English touring team first played here in 1862. The present game, as with all modern-day matches between Victoria and England, is titled the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial and is especially fitting here as Menzies went to school within sight of the ground and yesterday was the nineteenth anniversary of his birth.

The weather did not initially play homage. Overnight rain delayed the start for half an hour and left the outfield damp and slow, which was just as well for England, as their three seam bowlers competed for the worst line in the early stages and the short boundaries would have been in still greater danger on a dry day.

Bicknell received a warning for running on the pitch to go with his worries, but did lay claim to more moral successes than Malcolm or Small as the experienced left-hander, Watts, and his watchful partner, Warren Ayres, once of the Woodford Wells club in Essex, took careful stock through the shortened morning period.

Even when Jones was out, after making 110 from 106 balls, it was Atherton who snared him, and when Lehmann was run out in the same over, attempting a third to deep mid-wicket, it still seemed that England might complete the day without a single success for a front-line bowler.

Tufnell, who had taken his punishment without compromising his natural aggression, deservedly put a stop to this curiosity by having Sidons caught behind, but Ayres remained unbeaten after six hours in which England's Test

preparations had retreated not so much to the drawing board as to the dustbin.

By mid-afternoon, Gooch had evidently wearied of the four regular bowlers finding a wicket between them and turned to Atherton, who broke the stand in his second over as Watts missed a sweep. This, however, brought Jones striding to the middle, not a sight which the English relish.

Greeted euphorically by a fan club of several thousand schoolchildren, Jones let nobody down. Tufnell conceded three sixes to him, Bicknell and Malcolm one each. Twice he hit the ball out of the ground, once over the elaborate, turn-of-the-century pavilion. It was batting of the highest calibre from a man who believes England have little idea how to get him out; he may be right.

Even when Jones was out, after making 110 from 106 balls, it was Atherton who snared him, and when Lehmann was run out in the same over, attempting a third to deep mid-wicket, it still seemed that England might complete the day without a single success for a front-line bowler.

Tufnell, who had taken his punishment without compromising his natural aggression, deservedly put a stop to this curiosity by having Sidons caught behind, but Ayres remained unbeaten after six hours in which England's Test

preparations had retreated not so much to the drawing board as to the dustbin.

By mid-afternoon, Gooch had evidently wearied of the four regular bowlers finding a wicket between them and turned to Atherton, who broke the stand in his second over as Watts missed a sweep. This, however, brought Jones striding to the middle, not a sight which the English relish.

Greeted euphorically by a fan club of several thousand schoolchildren, Jones let nobody down. Tufnell conceded three sixes to him, Bicknell and Malcolm one each. Twice he hit the ball out of the ground, once over the elaborate, turn-of-the-century pavilion. It was batting of the highest calibre from a man who believes England have little idea how to get him out; he may be right.

Even when Jones was out, after making 110 from 106 balls, it was Atherton who snared him, and when Lehmann was run out in the same over, attempting a third to deep mid-wicket, it still seemed that England might complete the day without a single success for a front-line bowler.

Tufnell, who had taken his punishment without compromising his natural aggression, deservedly put a stop to this curiosity by having Sidons caught behind, but Ayres remained unbeaten after six hours in which England's Test

Martin on the crest of a ride

From BOB ROSS IN SYDNEY

JOHN Martin, who has led the fleet almost all the way on the 7,000 nautical-mile Cape Town to Sydney leg of the BOC single-handed round the world race, picked up a fast ride on a following southerly "buster" front yesterday to consolidate a winning lead.

Martin's Allied Bank was expected to cross the finishing line in Sydney Harbour at 5.30am local time, twelve-and-a-half hours ahead of the second yacht, Groupe Scala, sailed by Christophe Augin, of France.

Martin, aged 36, sailing the widest and probably most powerful 60-footer in the fleet, jumped into the lead, punching into the southeast headwinds as the fleet left Cape Town, where he had finished the first leg, from Newport, only 1hr 47min 15sec behind Augin. The first out of the high pressure system there, Martin took the lead 48 hours after the start.

"He almost got one whole weather system ahead of everybody and has led ever since," the race director, Mike Schrader, said. Martin's lead, of more than 300 miles, at times, was threatened by the two Frenchmen as he slowed up in a high pressure system to the south of Australia before entering Bass Strait. To circumnavigate the high, both Augin and Gauthier dipped to the south of Tasmania and for a while, two days ago, were making speeds of 9.7 knots and 7.3 knots respectively to Martin's 3.4 knots.

Martin picked up the fresh southerly air stream yesterday, however, and was able to run on a direct course for Sydney at speeds of up to 13 knots.

Coe group backed by CCPR

By JOHN GOODBODY

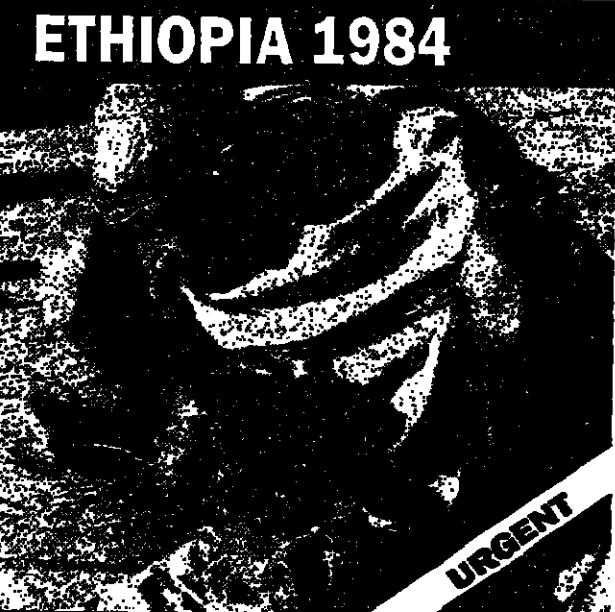
THE Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents sport's national governing bodies, yesterday reaffirmed its support for London to stage the 2000 Olympic Games.

The executive committee, which comprises 22 elected sports representatives, specifically supported London Olympic 2000, one of the three consortiums in the capital bidding to stage the Games. It is expected that in the new year London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, will combine with the two other groups to make a joint bid to the British Olympic Association (BOA).

The CCPR said that the "plans being assembled under the banner of London 2000 represented a genuine and realistic scheme which could secure the support of the BOA and attract a commitment from the IOC".

Peter Lawson, the CCPR secretary, has been instructed to convene the technical meetings with the summer Olympic sports to "fine-tune" the siting of facilities.

The decision will upset Manchester, which failed to gain the 1996 Games but plans to try again for 2000. However, CCPR support may handicap London. There are leading figures at the BOA who are irritated at the role the CCPR is playing in bidding for the Games.



ETHIOPIA 1994

IT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN

PLEASE SEND A DONATION NOW!

OXFAM

Here's my gift for Ethiopia:

☐ £10 ☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 or £.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Please send to Oxfam, Freeport, Oxford OX2 7BR

DONATE BY CREDIT CARD;

PHONE 0865 56916 ANYTIME

CRISIS IN AFRICA

An Olympian on the importance of winning

From DAVID MILLER IN PARIS

THE decision of the British Olympic Association (BOA) to confine in future its selection for the Olympic Games to those competitors with a chance of success, as opposed simply to those eligible to take part, has found an unexpected source of support. Le Comte de Beaumont, who will be 87 in January and is the oldest member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), believes the BOA to be correct. The BOA is modernising its attitudes in conjunction with seeking to host a future Games.

"I absolutely approve," he said, sitting at his desk in the banking chambers near to the Bourse where he has worked since he was 20. De Beaumont, from one of France's oldest aristocratic families, is the last surviving link with Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement, whom he met 60 years ago. De Coubertin had emphasised the importance of taking part.

"I was just a young fellow then," de Beaumont said. "He was a traditionalist, but not exactly what he may have seemed. He understood the world at his time, as it

COMMENT

then was. But today? He always said that the best men must come to the Games. Mind you, he never said anything about the best women, yet the Games today without women would be as unreal as an army barracks."

De Beaumont considers the decision by the BOA to be sensible and necessary. "As I understand it, they want a team that will compete, and not be 50 yards behind," he said, although I do not think he had heard of Britain's grounded eagle of Calgary. "Today in life you have to make selections. You do it with horses for the great races, so why not with people? I am in wholehearted agreement."

In 1934, de Beaumont, a prominent gentleman jockey, was to have ridden Trocadero in the Grand National, won that year by Golden Miller. A week before he caught tonsillitis, and had to watch the race instead from Lord Derby's box. An inexperienced replacement rider had Trocadero last at the first fence, but the horse came through the field

to finish fifth. "The only time I had a chance to compete in that great event," de Beaumont reflected disappointedly.

At the Munich Games in 1972, he was a candidate to succeed Avery Brundage, of the United States, as IOC president, but was surprisingly defeated by Michael Killanin, the Irish journalist who succeeded to the baronetcy given to his Irish Chief Justice grandfather by Queen Victoria. It was thought that de Beaumont's wealth would give him the edge — the IOC then paid no expenses, and Brundage claimed the job cost him £30,000 a year — but Lord Killanin broke important new ground as an unaffiliated leader. The IOC today has almost unlimited money and is able to subsidise both competitors and officials.

De Beaumont, however, is worried about the encroachment of money. "Is it interfering too much?" he asked. "Wherever it goes, it upsets things. Money is needed to help sport, yet sport must not help money. Money is needed to build stadiums, to maintain fields, but when sport starts to make money for other people, this is not good. Money brings with it selfishness, and then violence. When I was a young man, we were living in the so-called golden era. Now gold has taken us over, and two of the consequences of this are doping and violence. The Olympic movement must not lose its sense of direction."

He is aware of the danger at his age of being too traditional. "The world is changing so quickly, and like all old people I sometimes become afraid of the acceleration in change within the Olympic movement," he said. "I don't say you shouldn't change, but I believe you must stay close to the soul of sport. If the soul is not as pure as it used to be in my young days, when we played for fun, I'm not saying it's necessarily wrong. But we must be on our guard."

De Beaumont reflected on the Bible's teaching of the merchants' corrupting of the Temple, and he observed: "When you see many lizards running in the cracks in the wall, those lizards can eventually make the building collapse."

Despite the misgivings about long-term commercial threats to the Games, de Beaumont was optimistic.

and then violence. When I was a young man, we were living in the so-called golden era. Now gold has taken us over, and two of the consequences of this are doping and violence. The Olympic movement must not lose its sense of direction."

He is aware of the danger at his age of being too traditional. "The world is changing so quickly, and like all old people I sometimes become afraid of the acceleration in change within the Olympic movement," he said. "I don't say you shouldn't change, but I believe you must stay close to the soul of sport. If the soul is not as pure as it used to be in my young days, when we played for fun, I'm not saying it's necessarily wrong. But we must be on our guard."

De Beaumont reflected on the Bible's teaching of the merchants' corrupting of the Temple, and he observed: "When you see many lizards running in the cracks in the wall, those lizards can eventually make the building collapse."

Despite the misgivings about long-term commercial threats to the Games, de Beaumont was optimistic.

A man all his life of an independent mind.